



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2019 to 6/30/2020

Commission for Women **(Official Name of Board or Commission)**

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:

The Commission for Women serves as an advisory body that advocates for and inspires the city council and city manager to prioritize women's quality of life, so that Austin becomes the most equitable city in the nation for women and girls.

- 1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**

(Reference all reports, recommendations, letters or resolutions presented to the City Council on mission-specific issues. If some of the elements of the mission statement were not acted on by the board in the past year, the report should explain why no action was taken.)

- a. Recommendations:** The Commission for Women researched and approved the following recommendations aligned to the mission. The Commission was responsive and timely in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic, public safety, and race and social justice issues that impacted the City in 2020, even as commission meetings were limited during that timeframe.

Recommendation - 20190710-03a(3): Menstrual Equity

Recommendation - 20190710-03a02: Budget for Victim Services

Recommendation - 20190814-03a(3): Abortion Access

Recommendation - 20190911-03f: Recommendation that the City of Austin adopt a multi-disciplinary approach to address human trafficking

[Recommendation](#) - 20200417-03C: COVID-19 Responses for Women and Girls

[Recommendation](#) - 20200622-03A1: Race and Gender Equity

[Recommendation](#) - 20200622-03A2: Equity in Renaming

- b. Working Groups:** The Commission for Women maintained an active focus on issues regarding equity, safety and health for women and girls with the following working groups:
 - i. Economic equity
 - ii. Sexual assault, violence prevention, and survivor experience
 - iii. Access to quality and affordable healthcare
 - iv. Women's Hall of Fame
 - 1. Note: The Women's Hall of Fame nomination process, planned for spring 2020, and recognition event, planned for August 2020, were postponed due to Covid-19
- c. Community Engagement:** The Commission for Women engaged with City initiatives and community members as follows:
 - i. February 5, 2020 – Commission for Women Community Forum
 - 1. Presentation on Commission for Women mission, working groups and priorities
 - 2. City of Austin Budget presentation by Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer
 - 3. Community feedback and discussion
 - ii. Equity Action Team
 - 1. Chair Austen represented the Commission as a member of the Equity Action Team, hosted by the Equity Office
 - iii. Austin Police Department Equity Assessment Community Panel
 - 1. Chair Austen and Commissioner Lewis participated in the APD community assessment led by the Equity Office
 - iv. Contract to evaluate investigations of reported sexual assaults
 - 1. Commissioner Lewis represented the Commission for Women, and with Commissioners Fernandez and Gonzales, participated in the process to select a contractor to evaluate how reported sexual assaults are investigated and processed, per Council Resolution 20190131-077
 - v. Ongoing community engagement via Citizen Communication at Commission meetings and working group outreach
- d. Briefings:** The following briefings and presentations were held at Commission meetings:
 - i. August 14, 2019
 - 1. Presentation by Courtney Chambers, Texas Advocacy Director for Whole Women's Health, about current issues surrounding crisis pregnancy centers

2. Briefing and updates by Ana DeFrates about the DNA Advisory Panel
3. Presentation by Amanda Williams, from the Lilith Fund, and Delma Catalina, from NARAL Pro-Choice Texas, seeking support on a resolution to support abortion access in Austin
- ii. October 9, 2019
 1. Presentation regarding a 2020 program partnership opportunity by Molly Alexander, Executive Director of the Downtown Austin Alliance Foundation
- iii. November 13, 2019
 1. Presentation from the SIMS foundation presented by Patsy Dolan Bouressa and Elizabeth Donegan
- iv. January 8, 2020
 1. Presentation from Austin Public Health regarding women's health in the City of Austin presented by Stephanie Hayden, Director of Austin Public Health, Donna Sundstrom and Adrienne Sturup

e. Joint Inclusion Committee

- i. Chair Austen and Vice Chair Bope represented the Commission for Women at regular meetings of the Joint Inclusion Committee, and at special called meetings on the FY20 and FY21 budget
- ii. Commission for Women recommendations were submitted to the JIC for broader adoption and support by JIC members

f. Budget

- i. The Commission maintained a standing agenda item to discuss the FY20-21 Budget, and addressed Budget items via working groups
- ii. Commission for Women FY21 Budget recommendations were approved at the April 17, 2020 meeting and submitted through the online Budget tool

g. General Business

- i. Updated and approved the Commission for Women charter, including vision, mission, values, working groups and alignment with the CoA strategic priorities

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

(If any of the board's actions were outside the scope of the mission statement, the report should explain the non-compliance issues.)

The Commission for Women remains in compliance with the mission statement.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

(Make sure the goals and objectives fall within the mission statement of the board/commission.)

The Commission for Women has the following goals, as outlined in the charter:

- a. Economic Equity
 - i. Austin as a CEDAW city
 - ii. Address women and family homelessness (also with item c)
 - iii. Equity Assessment Tool – gender lens
- b. Sexual assault, violence prevention and survivor experience
 - i. Monitor evaluation of APD sex crimes
 - ii. Monitor impacts of DNA Lab and Rape Kit Backlog and community response
 - iii. APD Victim Services recommendations
- c. Access to quality and affordable health care
 - i. Address mental health for women and girls
- d. Women's Hall of Fame
 - i. Recognition of leaders and organizations who are helping to make Austin the most equitable city for women and girls
 - ii. Resume planning for nominations and event, pending health and safety conditions which support a public gathering