



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Member Brewster McCracken

**FROM:** Alice Glasco, Director  
Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department

**DATE:** May 25, 2005

**SUBJECT:** African American Community Scorecard Briefing

At the March 24, 2005 Council meeting, Ryan Robinson, City Demographer, presented the African American Community Scorecard. Listed below are responses to the questions you raised following the presentation.

**1a. Do you have the metropolitan area statistics for ethnic and racial shares of total population?**

**1b. Do you have a comparison of how the population levels have changed in terms of ethnicities and races among the various cities within the Austin metropolitan area?**

**1c. Are there other communities in our metropolitan area that have significantly different percentages of their population that are African American now than they did 20 or 30 years ago? What are those percentages?**

RESPONSE: Please see Table 1 and Table 2 in the Data Appendix. Table 1 details ethnicity shares for all counties and cities with populations of 15,000 or more in the Austin metropolitan area. Travis County has the largest absolute number of African Americans and the greatest share of total population that is African American when compared to the other metropolitan constituent counties of Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays and Williamson. And while the absolute number of African Americans in Bastrop and

Caldwell Counties is relatively much smaller than that of Travis, the African American shares of total population in Bastrop and Caldwell (8.6% and 8.3%, respectively) are just beneath the 9.0% share in Travis.

As discussed in detail in the Scorecard report, the City of Austin's share of total population that is African American has been slowly declining for decades. The City of Pflugerville, according to Census 2000 information, has an African American share of total population of 9.2% (up from 4.3% in 1990). If the trends of the 1990s have continued during the first half of the current decade, the City of Pflugerville's African American share of total population more than likely exceeds the City of Austin's share today. And yet it is important to note that the City of Austin is 35 times bigger than Pflugerville in terms of total population and the absolute number of African American Austinites (~65,000) dwarfs that of African American Pflugervillians (~2,000). The City of Round Rock's African American share of total population was 7.5% in 2000, an increase from 5.3% in 1990.

Table 2 shows ethnicity histories for the Austin metropolitan area, Travis County, and the City of Austin—1980 through 2000. While the absolute total number of African Americans in central Texas has been gradually increasing over the past decades, the share of total population that is African American has been steadily decreasing for the metropolitan area as a whole, Travis County and the City of Austin.

**2. When making a comparison of income levels, is it also controlled for educational level? For example, do we find that folks with a college degree have virtually the same income regardless of race?**

RESPONSE: Most demographers and economists agree that in terms of explaining disparities in income and earnings between ethnicities and races, education level is a more significant explanatory variable than is ethnicity or race alone. Moreover, educational attainment levels correlate strongly with ethnic and racial membership.

Please see Graph 1 through Graph 4 in the Data Appendix. Graph 1 shows median family income by ethnicity for the nation from Census 2000. The same general variance

between ethnic groups with respect to family incomes is evident in the national-level data that is also pronounced in the Austin data. For example, African American median family income is about 60% of Anglo family income. However, the data shown in Graph 2 reveal the leveling influence of educational attainment. Graph 2 shows mean earnings for college graduates by ethnicity and race for the nation in 2004. Granted, there are still disparities between ethnicities and races in terms of income when controlling for educational level, but the depth of the disparities is far shallower than when a comparison is made simply using ethnic and racial membership alone. For example, African Americans with college degrees earn fully 80% of what Anglos with college degrees earn.

Interestingly, there are significant differences between the sexes in terms of earnings and education level and ethnicity. Graph 3 shows mean earnings levels for men with college degrees and Graph 4 shows mean earnings levels for women with college degrees. African American men with college degrees earn on average 73% of what Anglo men with college degrees earn, while African American women with college degrees earn more than Anglo women with college degrees earn. Furthermore, what is most striking about earning levels for women with college degrees by ethnicity is the almost complete absence of any significant variance or disparity. College educated Asian women make the most of the group.

**3. You gave us the percentage of local businesses owned by African American Austinites. Do you have the percentages of business ownership for other ethnicities and races?**

RESPONSE: Please see Graph 5 in the Data Appendix which details Austin MSA business ownership shares for all ethnicities.

**4a. It would be helpful to know if there are new locations where there is a concentration of populations (*Ed. ...i.e., Concentrations of African Americans...*) in the metropolitan area.**

RESPONSE: African Americans in Austin have experienced a long-term transition from living in a concentrated urban enclave to residing in a broad, dispersed pattern across the mainly northern suburbs of Austin. There are no new concentrations of African American population in the suburbs in metropolitan Austin. The two maps shown at Council tell the story best. The first map depicted the concentration of African American population as a percentage of total population, the second map showed the absolute number of African Americans by census block. When mapping African Americans as a percentage of total small area population, the suburbs of Austin seemingly appear to be completely devoid of African American households. However, when mapping the total absolute number of African American individuals by block, the broad and highly dispersed pattern of today's African American community is strongly apparent.

**4b. Does your research indicate whether African Americans have different levels of suburbanization than Anglos, Hispanics or Asians?**

According to research performed in 2002 by the Lewis Mumford Center for Comparative Urban and Regional Research, African American households are suburbanizing at faster rates than are Hispanic or Anglo populations. In 1980, 5.9% of the nation's suburban population was African American, in 1990 the figure stood at 6.9%, and by 2000 the number had climbed to 8.4%. Sociologist Dr. Mark Fosset at Texas A&M has noted that one underlying reason for the recent increased rate of African American suburbanization is an improved civil rights environment in the suburbs. Fosset says, "African Americans were much slower than other groups to leave the central city for fear of racial discrimination in the suburbs."

**5. It is clear that there is a different experience (*Ed. i.e., ...on the part of African Americans in Austin...*) that we know of from talking to folks in the community. The challenge we have is figuring out what we as a governing body can do about it?**

RESPONSE: On May 26, 2005, the City Manager will present findings and recommendations resulting from a series of heavily attended community workshops that have been facilitated by Ms. Robena Jackson. of Groups Solutions RJW.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 974-6589 or the City Demographer at 974-6443.

Alice Glasco, Director  
Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department

cc: Mayor and Council  
Toby Hammett Futrell, City Manager  
Laura J. Huffman, Assistant City Manager  
Ryan Robinson, City Demographer, NPZD

## **Data Appendix**

# Ethnicity Shares

## Central Texas Counties and Cities

### Census 2000 Data

Table 1

Geography	Census 2000		White	% of		Hispanic	% of		Asian	% of		Other	% of		Multi	% of
	Total	Population		Total	African American		Total	African American		Total	Hispanic		Total	Asian		Total
<b>MSA</b>	1,249,763	758,302	758,302	60.7%	96,746	7.7%	327,760	26.2%	44,050	3.5%	5,583	0.4%	17,322	1.4%		
<b>COUNTIES</b>																
Bastrop	57,733	37,764	37,764	65.4%	4,938	8.6%	13,845	24.0%	277	0.5%	278	0.5%	631	1.1%		
Caldwell	32,194	15,929	15,929	49.5%	2,674	8.3%	13,018	40.4%	110	0.3%	120	0.4%	343	1.1%		
Hays	97,589	62,945	62,945	64.5%	3,448	3.5%	28,859	29.6%	787	0.8%	506	0.5%	1,044	1.1%		
Travis	812,280	457,817	457,817	56.4%	73,242	9.0%	229,048	28.2%	36,232	4.5%	3,690	0.5%	12,251	1.5%		
Williamson	249,967	183,847	183,847	73.5%	12,444	5.0%	42,990	17.2%	6,644	2.7%	989	0.4%	3,053	1.2%		
<b>CITIES</b>																
Austin	656,562	347,554	347,554	52.9%	64,259	9.8%	200,579	30.5%	30,915	4.7%	3,097	0.5%	10,158	1.5%		
Cedar Park	26,049	20,584	20,584	79.0%	822	3.2%	3,516	13.5%	688	2.6%	103	0.4%	336	1.3%		
Georgetown	28,339	21,763	21,763	76.8%	932	3.3%	5,121	18.1%	198	0.7%	67	0.2%	258	0.9%		
Pflugerville	16,335	11,092	11,092	67.9%	1,509	9.2%	2,727	16.7%	702	4.3%	46	0.3%	259	1.6%		
Round Rock	61,136	40,113	40,113	65.6%	4,560	7.5%	13,511	22.1%	1,782	2.9%	279	0.5%	891	1.5%		
San Marcos	34,733	19,165	19,165	55.2%	1,860	5.4%	12,676	36.5%	452	1.3%	170	0.5%	410	1.2%		

SOURCE: US Census Bureau.

Produced by: Ryan Robinson, City Demographer, Department of Planning, City of Austin, May 2001.

Table 2

# Ethnicity Histories

## Population Totals and Shares of Total Over Time

### Austin MSA, Travis County, and the City of Austin: Decennial Census Data

Period and Entity	Total Population	Percent				
		Anglo	Hispanic	African American	Asian	Other
<b>1980</b>						
Austin MSA	585,051	420,652	102,969	53,825	2,925	4,680
Travis County	419,573	293,701	72,167	44,475	5,035	4,196
City of Austin	345,890	231,746	62,260	41,507	5,188	5,188
<b>1990</b>						
Austin MSA	846,227	572,049	173,477	75,314	16,925	8,462
Travis County	576,407	374,088	121,045	60,523	13,834	6,917
City of Austin	465,622	286,358	106,627	55,409	12,106	6,053
<b>2000</b>						
Austin MSA	1,249,763	758,302	327,760	96,746	44,050	22,905
Travis County	812,280	457,817	229,048	73,242	36,232	15,941
City of Austin	656,562	347,554	200,579	64,259	30,915	13,255
<b>Point Changes</b>						
Austin MSA Growth						
1980-1990	261,176	151,398	70,508	21,490	13,999	3,782
1990-2000	403,536	186,253	154,283	21,432	27,125	14,443
<b>Travis County Growth</b>						
1980-1990	156,834	80,387	48,879	16,048	8,799	2,721
1990-2000	235,873	83,729	108,003	12,719	22,398	9,024
<b>City of Austin Growth</b>						
1980-1990	119,732	54,611	44,367	13,902	6,918	865
1990-2000	190,940	61,196	93,952	8,850	18,809	7,202

#### DATA SOURCES:

Decennial figures are from the US Census Bureau.

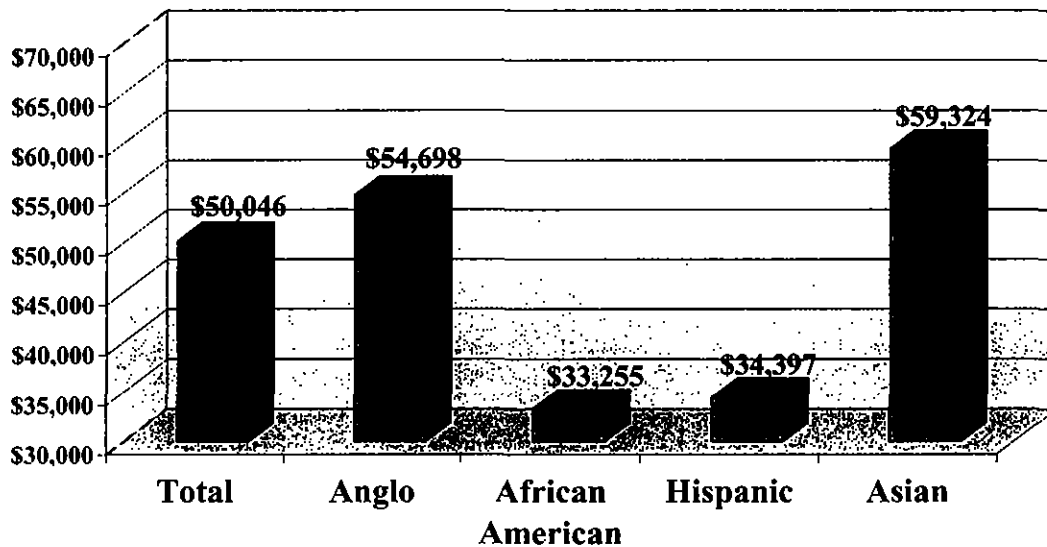
Report produced by: Ryan Robinson, City Demographer, Department of Planning, City of Austin, April 2005.

## Data Theme: Income, Education Level, and Ethnicity

Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000 and the American Community Survey, 2004.

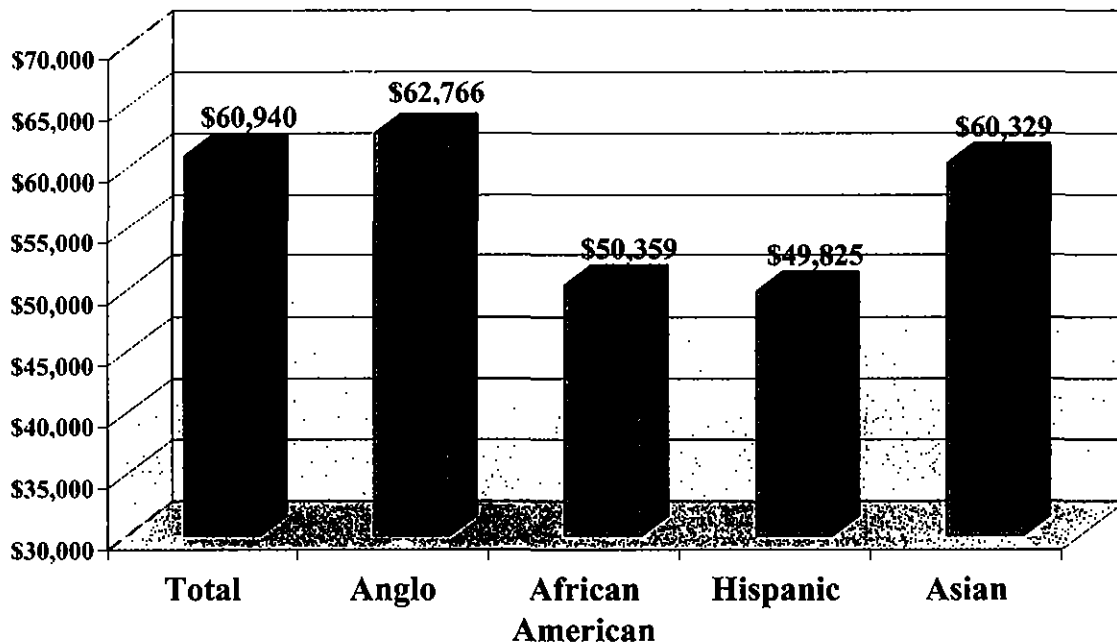
Graph 1

### Median Family Income by Ethnicity, U.S., 2000



Graph 2

### Earnings for College Graduates by Ethnicity, U.S., 2004

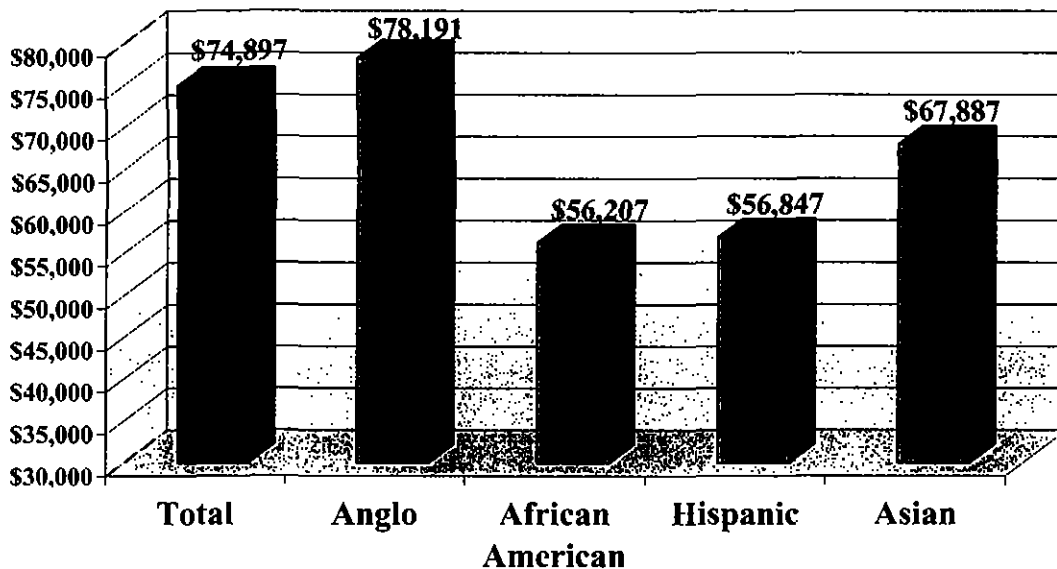


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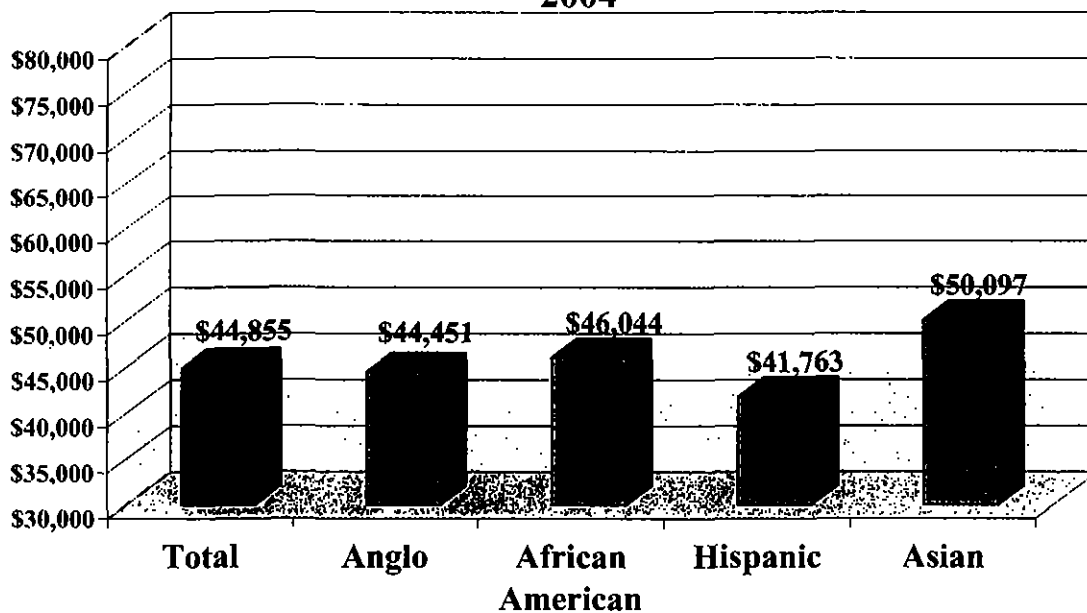
Graph 3

### Earnings for Male College Graduates by Ethnicity, U.S., 2004



Graph 4

### Earnings for Female College Graduates by Ethnicity, U.S., 2004



## Data Theme: Business Ownership

Source: US Census Bureau, Economic Censuses 1997 and 2002.

Graph 5

### Business Ownership Shares by Ethnicity, Austin MSA

