



**RCA
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 8
AGENDA DATE: Thu 03/10/2005
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SUBJECT: Approve designation of Edward MacLeod Racht, M.D. as an Alternate Health Authority for Health and Human Services Department effective March 10, 2005.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

REQUESTING Health and Human
DEPARTMENT: Services

**DIRECTOR'S
AUTHORIZATION:** David Lurie

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Adolfo Valadez M.P.H., Medical Director, 972-5408; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: Approved designation of Adolfo Valadez, M.D., M.P.H. as Health Authority and Linda Dooley, M.D. and Edward Sherwood, M.D., F.A.C.P. as Alternate Health Authority, January 29, 2004.

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

PURCHASING: N/A

MBE / WBE: N/A

Background

David Lurie, Director, Health and Human Services Department (HHSD), has designated Adolfo Valadez, M.D., M.P.H., as Health Authority effective February 1, 2004. Dr. Valadez joined HHSD as Medical Director for the Department on March 17, 2003, served as an Alternate Health Authority, and was subsequently approved as Health Authority by City Council on January 29, 2004.

Under state law (Health and Safety Code Section 121.029), the Health Authority may delegate any power or duty imposed on the health authority to a properly qualified physician to act while the health authority is absent or incapacitated. The physician designated by the health authority must:

- Meet license and residence requirements;
- Be appointed as a designee in the same manner as the Health Authority; and
- File the Oath of Office, executed by a duly appointed Notary Public, with the Texas Department of Health

The delegation is effective during the term of the Health Authority making the delegation; the Health Authority is responsible for the acts of the physician to whom the powers have been delegated; and the entity that appoints the Health Authority must have procedures in place to prevent duplication of authority and provide notice to the Department when authority is transferred. HHSD has had a "Delegation of Back-Up Health Authority" in effect since July 1, 2000.

Eligible Appointees



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With the approval of the HHSD Director, Dr. Valadez has requested that Edward M. Racht, M.D. be designated as an Alternate Health Authority. Dr. Racht received his M.D. degree from Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, in 1984. His medical education included an internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Medical College of Virginia Hospitals, Richmond, VA. He holds certification from the National Board of Medical Examiners (1985), is a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine (1988) and numerous certifications in Cardiac Life Support, Trauma Life Support, Pediatric Life Support and Trauma Life Support. Since 1995, Dr. Racht has served as Medical Director of the City of Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services Clinical Practice. Dr. Racht meets all of the requirements under Section 121.029 of the Health and Safety Code.

Attached are the duties and responsibilities for an Alternate Health Authority.

Requested Council Action

Council is requested to approve designation of Edward MacLeod Racht, M.D. as an Alternate Health Authority for Health and Human Services Department effective March 10, 2005.



Alternate Health Authority Duties and Responsibilities

Under the direction of, and as assigned by, the Director of the City of Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department, and by delegation of the Health Authority, only in the absence or event of incapacitation of the duly designated and approved Health Authority:

- Performs the duties of local Health Authority as described in State statute (i.e., quarantine, required reporting of infectious diseases, birth and death records), City ordinance, and County regulations, including those duties necessary to implement and enforce the law to protect the public health.
- Establishes, maintains, and enforces quarantine in Austin/Travis County.
- Provides medical leadership in responding to disease outbreaks.
- Advises local physicians concerning communicable disease and other public health concerns, including bioterrorism and other emergencies.
- Communicates to the media during a public health emergency as assigned.
- Conducts appeal hearings for Animal Services and Environmental Health licensing and regulation program.
- Serves on Department team for emergency operations.