

House the Homeless /COA Proposed Collaboration

- 1 We ask the COA to work with the Travis County Commissioners Court to provide 30 acres of land for the Mobile Loaves and Fishes Mobile Home Park collaborative
 2. Pursuant to the “no sitting/ no lying down ’ ordinance we need sidewalk benches installed outside of the ARCH so **disabled** people who are experiencing homelessness can be treated with fairness, dignity, and in a humane fashion without fear of being arrested
 - 3 We ask the COA to collaborate with House the Homeless Town Lake Xeroscape Adopt a Trail Legacy Project
 4. We ask that Mayor Will Wynn use the “bully pulpit” to get Austin’s businesses to follow the lead of the City of Austin, Travis County Commissioners, the Austin Area Fire Fighters Association, and hundreds of other Austin and Texas businesses, unions, non-profits, and faith based organizations in endorsing and paying a Universal Living Wage so Austin’s homeless can work **themselves** off of our streets
 5. We urge the city to create two permanent, pay as you use, public bathrooms, at each end of 6th Street These will pay for their own maintenance and provide facilities for people experiencing homelessness, who can access them with tokens
 6. Address the fact that there are only two publicly funded substance abuse treatment beds for men outside of the criminal justice system in Austin This can be done by supporting House the Homeless legislation whereby our City/County Health Department first determines the cost of substance abuse treatment for an individual and then determines the number of people for which the community is willing to pay to provide substance abuse treatment
- The treatment is then paid for with a value added tax placed on every business that profits from the sale of alcohol The cost would be equally divided among those businesses This would amount to only one cent per alcoholic item By taking this approach, business concerns about an open ended tax are alleviated
- Bottom line** businesses that profit from the sale of alcohol will pay for substance abuse treatment for those people who have an adverse medical reaction to their product
7. We urge support for House the Homeless legislation that acknowledges hate crimes against people experiencing homelessness by including them in the existing hate crimes law
 - 8 Ensure that the Austin Housing Authority, starting with Thurmond heights, allows no net loss of structural housing either now or in the future Should it be shown that AHA properties need to be replaced, there must be 1 for 1 hard housing unit replacement with staggered construction and move-in opportunities with no reduction in levels of support
 - 9 Lastly, we call upon the City to review our relationship to federal government policies that include disability benefit levels, Housing Authority Regulations, the federal minimum wage, and the Continuum of Care count of our homeless citizens

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this brief overview of the House the Homeless organization