

MAKING AUSTIN AFFORDABLE AGAIN: 2017 NEEDS ASSESSMENT 4/20/17

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Austin needs to have at least 600 owner-occupied homes repaired each year, a goal listed in the Austin Strategic Housing Plan you adopted last week. This investment is needed not only because some lower income owners do not have the resources to pay for repairs and pay all of their other bills, but also because you extensively discussed last week to preserve existing affordable housing stock and neighborhood character.

The organizations that actually do these repairs free of charge to the owners are part of the Austin Housing Repair Coalition, and I have had the privilege to serve as a pro-bono consultant to the Coalition since 2008.

Please recognize home repair as a highest priority in the 2017-2018 Action Plan, and listen to the testimony of those who repair roofs, wiring, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning and build ramps and other improvements to remove architectural barriers for persons with disabilities and seniors trying to age safely in place.

It is nothing short of miraculous that some long-time low-income homeowners are able to live in Austin despite affordability challenges. Let's help them get their homes repaired sooner rather than later.