



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2020 to 6/30/2021

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.
 - [Recommendation](#) - 20200805-02Aii: Victim Services
 - [Recommendation](#) - 20210203-04b: Hotel Safety Net for Survivors
 - [Recommendation](#) - 20210303-02b: Appointment of APD Chief
 - [Recommendation](#) - 20210303-03a: Support COA Legislative Agenda
 - [Recommendation](#) - 20210407-03e: Menstrual Hygiene Day May 28th
 - [Recommendation](#) - 20210602-002a: Local Menstrual Health Equity
- b. Working Groups:** The Commission for Women focused on issues regarding gender and race equity, economic equity, safety, and health for

women and girls, with the following active working groups (refer to goals section for more details):

- i. Homelessness
- ii. Safety
- iii. Health
- iv. Recognition of Equity for Women and Girls

c. Community Engagement: The Commission for Women engaged with City initiatives and community members as follows:

- i. Community Forums – the Commission participated with the JIC and Equity Office to host virtual forums in February-March to solicit community input for the FY22 budget cycle
- ii. Equity Action Team – Chair Austen represented the Commission as a member of the Equity Action Team, run by the Equity Office
- iii. Reimagining Public Safety – Commissioner Lewis represented the Commission on this task force and related public safety initiatives
- iv. Winter Storm Task Force – Chair Austen was co-Chair of the task force to solicit community feedback on the February winter storm and its impact on the city, and to develop a report on the findings
- v. Menstrual Equity – Commissioners Gonzalez, Bope and Austen participated in a working group led by CM Harper-Madison to address menstrual equity and provide free supplies to women and girls in public places

d. Briefings: The following briefings and presentations were held at Commission meetings:

- i. August 5, 2020
 1. Presentation from the Office of the City Auditor regarding the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission process and call for applicants.
 2. Presentation from the City Manager’s Office and Police Executive Research Forum regarding Resolution No. 20190131-077 on evaluation of Austin Police Department’s sexual assault investigations.
- ii. October 7, 2020
 1. Presentation from the Office of Sustainability regarding the Community Climate Plan Revision 2020.
- iii. November 6, 2020
 1. Presentation from Lifeworks by Danielle Owens regarding youth homelessness and mental health.
 2. Presentation from the Office of Police Oversight by Cristina Tangredi regarding the Analysis of Austin Police Department Racial Profiling Data.
- iv. December 2, 2020

1. Presentation from the Intergovernmental Affairs Office regarding the 87th State of Texas Legislative Session.
- v. January 8, 2021
 1. Presentation from Integral Care by Ellen Richards regarding issues related to mental health in Austin.
- vi. February 3, 2021
 1. Presentation from Austin Police Department Victim Services by Kachina Clark regarding victim services and budget priorities and needs.
 2. Presentation from the Survive2Thrive Foundation by Courtney Santana regarding displacement of domestic violence victims, homelessness prevention, and budget priorities and needs.
- vii. May 5, 2021
 1. Presentation by Kimberly Theodore Sidey, Program Manager, Austin Community Foundation, regarding the Women's Fund, including research and grant-making on addressing the escalating opportunity gap faced by women and especially women of color in the region.
 2. Introduction of Carol Johnson, Civil Rights Officer, City of Austin Office of Civil Rights.
- viii. June 2, 2021
 1. Presentation by Amber Fogarty, Mobile Loaves and Fishes, regarding programs for women and children in the community experiencing homelessness.

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 budget.
- ii. The Commission for Women submitted FY22 budget recommendations, and items were submitted to the JIC for broader adoption and support by JIC members.

f. General Business

- i. The Commission 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:

Working Groups	2021 Goals
Homelessness	Research and recommend actions to address women and children with housing vulnerabilities or experiencing homelessness.
	Analyze the intersection of homelessness with safety and mental health, including shelter and housing for women and girls experiencing sexual abuse, domestic violence, and sex trafficking.
Health	Research and recommend actions to address mental health for women and girls.
	Recommend actions to address the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on women and girls, including equitable access to treatment and vaccines.
Safety	Represent the needs of women and girls with the Reimagining Public Safety task force. Ensure that Public Safety leadership, resources, budgets, policies, and practices address the needs of women and girls, are trauma informed, culturally competent, and support healing and justice for survivors.
	Monitor progress and impact of APD’s evaluation of sex crimes and Austin’s implementation of new state laws related to sexual assault systems response.
	Monitor the timely processing of rape kits and DNA evidence. Request updates from past recommendations and council resolutions related to systems improvement, with coordinated community response.
	Monitor staffing needs for APD Victim Services; ensure a victim services counselor is dispatched to every emergency call involving sexual assault.
Recognition of Equity for Women and Girls	Recognize leaders and organizations who are making an impact on Austin becoming the most equitable city for women and girls.
	Redesign the nomination process, selection criteria, program name, recognition event, and promotion to align with the Commission’s vision and mission. (Suspended in 2020; resume nomination, selection and promotion processes in 2021, and plan recognition event in consideration of health and safety guidelines.)