



**Item From Council
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 37
AGENDA DATE: Thu 04/07/2005
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Item From Council

Posting Language: Approve a resolution creating and appoint members to a "Blue Ribbon Committee" to assist the City with making recommendations regarding the quality of life issues being discussed in facilitated community meetings on the African American Community Scorecard.

Proposed meeting date: THU 04/07/2005

Sponsor: Mayor Will Wynn

Co-sponsor 1: Council Member Betty Dunkerley **Co-sponsor 2:** Council Member Daryl Slusher

Date by which the City Manager is requested to report back to Council: THU 05/26/2005

Draft Resolution/Ordinance attached:

On Thursday, March 24, based on the level of public opposition and debate, the City Manager pulled down any further discussion or action on a proposed \$750,000 forgivable loan to Midtown Live prior to the Council meeting.

On March 24, to better understand the City and the region's declining share of the African American population, the Austin City Council directed the City Manager to begin a 60-day facilitated community discussion to provide feedback and recommendations for incorporating key strategies on improving African American quality of life issues in the City's overall economic development program.

The City Council did not direct the City Manager to continue studying the Midtown Live loan proposal or return in 60 days with a recommendation on any specific loan proposal, but rather return with a broader set of recommendations for the City's economic development program. This does not preclude Midtown Live, like any other small business in Austin, from applying for any existing economic development program.

This initiative followed the presentation to the City Council on March 24 of the African American Scorecard which attempted to answer two basic questions:

- Is the quality of life for African Americans in Austin different than that of other Austinites?
- Is the quality of life for African Americans in Austin markedly different than the quality of life of African Americans in other cities?

In the next 60 days, Group Solutions will facilitate community meetings targeting residents of the African American community to solicit feedback that will assist the City in developing recommendations to



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address quality of life issues.

To assist with this process, this item is coming forward on the Council Agenda asking the City Council to appoint a Blue Ribbon Committee to assist with making recommendations to the City. These members will be appointed by Council prior to the first community meeting and will work in conjunction with Group Solutions.