

Quality of Life Community Update September 9, 2005

As the deadline for submitting the implementation plan to Council grows near (October 6), sub-committees are meeting in various formations (with the City teams, in subject focus teams and with each other and with various members of the community, often spending several hours each week in workgroups to hammer out specific details that capture the community's intent within each of the 58 recommendations. As they delve deeper into the issues, the community co-chairs have discovered that many of the recommendations are dependant on those in another area and they have begun working across team to discover and develop synergies. For instance, establishing a cultural district requires cooperation between Arts, Neighborhood Sustainability and Economic Development teams.

Business Economic Development:

Each of the nine recommendations have been discussed in detail along with implementation strategies. Focus is on insuring that the way that the City does business enhances small business' ability to succeed as well as strengthening Austin's ability to attract African American businesses to relocate to our community.

Neighborhood Sustainability:

Attracting and retaining African American households and reducing the negative effects of gentrification are the focus areas of this group with all the attendant issues such as: creating mixed income neighborhoods, creating and sustaining affordable housing and increasing African American home ownership, implementing policy changes that will allow land banks and community land trusts as well as supporting area schools and cultural resources.

Arts, Culture and Entertainment:

The team is working on complex issues related to creating a cultural district and developing the cultural fund to be self-sustaining over time. The group is also planning to meet with stakeholders in the arts and entertainment industry to give an update on progress so far.

Health:

The subcommittee is focused on filling in as much of the data areas on the "tracking" form. The main area of concern is performance measures. The subcommittee divided the recommendations into four groups. A group was composed of recommendations that related to, or were connected to, each other. Members were assigned to one of the four groups: Northeast Clinic and MAP, Recruitment of African American Health Professionals, Mental Health multidisciplinary approaches, Targeted Community Prevention. The assignment was to examine each recommendation to identify the best

performance measures. Performance measures are defined as 1) Objectives, 2) Process measures and 3) Target or time of accomplishment.

Police and Safety:

The subcommittee is meeting regularly and working on issues related to disablement rather than deadly force, training and recruitment. Disablement rather than deadly force is a policy that can significantly lower the number of police related shootings in our community.

Employment and Education:

The subcommittee is developing strategies to interface with AISD to address some of the key issues. Some of these fall outside the purview of the City and must be addressed through the appropriate agency.