



COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Recommendation Number: (20230626-002): City of Austin Joint Policing Policy

WHEREAS, on March 30th, 2023, Mayor Watson entered into a joint policing agreement with DPS and State leaders to patrol the City of Austin, resulting in massive racial disparity of enforcement, with black and brown Austinites facing disproportionate numbers of stops and arrests.

WHEREAS, initial statistics provided by the County Attorney's office show that in the first month of the agreement, nearly 90% of those arrested by DPS on misdemeanor charges were Black or Latino.

WHEREAS, the citizens of Austin, particularly those most marginalized, deserve to feel safe in their communities, free from the burden of an outside agency patrolling our streets with no accountability to City of Austin leadership.

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Commission has an obligation to speak up when human rights are being infringed in the city we love; and the City Council has a duty to courageously make their voice heard on agreements with such consequence to the populace.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Human Rights Commission calls on the Austin City Council to immediately hold a vote on the future of the joint policing agreement, and do what they know in their hearts is right for the citizens of Austin.

Date of Approval: 6/26/2023

Record of the vote: 7-0, 1 Recusal
