



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: March 25, 2014

Prepared By/Phone Number:

Belinda Powell, Strategic Planning Manager, Planning & Budget Office
512-854-9506, and

Matias Segura, Task Manager, URS Corporation, CFCH Program Manager
512-419-5408

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:

Leslie Browder, County Executive,
Planning & Budget Office 512-854-9106

Roger Jefferies, County Executive,
Justice and Public Safety, 512-854-4415

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Samuel T. Biscoe, County Judge

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY FOCUS COMMITTEE FOR THE PROPOSED CIVIL AND FAMILY COURT HOUSE PROJECT.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

On January 21, 2014, the Commissioners Court discussed with the URS team the development of a Community Focus Committee, CFC, for the Civil and Family Court House program. The draft charge for the committee was approved on February 25, 2014 and the URS Team was asked to continue to work with members of the Commissioners Court and the Civil Judges to develop the recommended committee membership. To date several meetings have been held and the attached back-up represents the feedback received and the recommendations of the URS team for a diverse group of community members to act as the Community Focus Committee for the project.

On March 18, 2014, the Commissioners Court approved the appointment of the majority of the candidates recommended for the Community Focus Committee. Staff was directed to continue to expand the membership by

two additional representatives. The additional candidates recommended at this time are:

Ms. Dora Hernandez and,
Mr. Louis Grachos

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends appointment of the two additional representatives.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES: NA

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING: NA

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS: NA

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. Potential Candidates' Resume Highlights**
- 2. Demographic makeup of the proposed committee**

CCFC - COMMUNITY FOCUS COMMITTEE - POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

Bob Binder

Profession:	Attorney
Job Title	Principal
Company	Bob Binder & Associates, PC
Ethnic Heritage	Caucasian
Gender	Male
Education	J.D. UT Law School
Category	Commissioner at Large Appointee
Residential Zip Code	78731

Resume Highlights

Binder Bob & Associates PC is a Legal office located in Austin, TX. Credentialed Mediator. Austin City Council; Univ. of Texas, Student Body President; Austin Airport Advisory Board, Chairman and Vice-Chairman and Board Member; Capital Area Trial Lawyers Association, Past President; Univ. of Texas Army ROTC Alumni Ass'n. (Texas Caissons); Austin YMCA, Past Director; Cat Mountain Homeowners' Ass'n. Past President and Board Member; • Austin City Hall, Mayor's Design Committee. Board Certified as Trial Lawyer in Personal Injury.

Nancy Kay Burns

Profession:	Professional wealth manager
Job Title	Manager of Real Estate Assets
Company	LBJ Family Wealth Advisors
Ethnic Heritage	Caucasian
Gender	Female
Education	Not shown on resume/vita
Category	Commissioner at Large Appointee
Residential Zip Code	78701

Resume Highlights

Ms. Burns was chairman of the Downtown Austin Alliance in 2008 and remains on its Board of Directors as well as the Board of Directors of Caritas, and is active in several other organizations including BOMA Austin, Art Alliance Austin, Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association, Sustainable Food Center, Preservation Austin and St. David's Episcopal Church. Additionally, she has volunteered for 10 years at the Downtown Farmers' Market. Held several elective offices for the Town of Hull, while living in Massachusetts, including Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Redevelopment Authority and Library Trustee.

CCFC - COMMUNITY FOCUS COMMITTEE - POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

Socar Chatmon-Thomas

Profession:	Real Estate Broker
Job Title	Director
Company	National Assoc. of Realtors, Region 10
Ethnic Heritage	Black
Gender	Female
Education	Rice Univ; BS Electrical Engineering
Category	Commissioner at Large Appointee
Residential Zip Code	78745

Resume Highlights

Top producer with more than 17 years of real estate experience. Has received several honors for her work in real estate, including OMEGA TAU RHO Award. As NAR Director, chosen as the Federal Political Contact (FPC) for Congressman Lloyd Doggett. Served on various boards: TAR Housing Initiative Committee; TAR Financial Services Task Force, Advisory Member; TREPAC Trustee; has participated in TAR Hill Visits in Washington, D.C. since 1996. Chairman of Energy Conversation Subcommittee (ABOR). Assisted Katrina Victims relocating to Austin in 2005-06.

David Courreges

Profession:	Attorney
Job Title	Founding Member
Company	Courreges, PC
Ethnic Heritage	Caucasian
Gender	Male
Education	St.Mary's Univ - J.D.; MPA; UT - B.A.
Category	Legal & Professional
Residential Zip Code	78739

Resume Highlights

David is the founding shareholder of Courreges, PC. His practice includes legislative and governmental affairs, administrative law, association law and mediation. He is president-elect of the Austin Young Lawyers Association, co-chairs the ABA/AYLA Leadership Academy, and the Austin Bar Wildfire Legal Response Team. He is also active in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Austin Young Chamber, The Settlement Home for Children, Leadership Austin, and Volunteer Legal Services.

CCFC - COMMUNITY FOCUS COMMITTEE - POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

Martha S. Dickie

Profession:	Attorney
Job Title	Partner
Company	Almanza, Blackburn & Dickie
Ethnic Heritage	Caucasian
Gender	Female
Education	UT Doctor of Juris; UT BA
Category	Legal & Professional
Residential Zip Code	78746

Resume Highlights

President State Bar of Texas, 2006-2007 and Board of Directors 1989-1992
 1989-92 Travis County Bar Association (President, 1988-89; President, Criminal Law and Procedure Section, 1985-86)
 Texas Board of Legal Specialization (June 1995-May 2001)
 Texas Bar Foundation (Trustee, 1992-95, Chair of the Fellows, 2003-04)
 President Austin Chapter of American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) 2010-2012

Brian East

Profession:	Attorney
Job Title	Senior Attorney
Company	Disability Rights Texas
Ethnic Heritage	Caucasian
Gender	Male
Education	J.D. UT Law School; BA - Sociology, UT
Category	Commissioner at Large Appointee
Residential Zip Code	78723

Resume Highlights

He worked at legal aid for two years, and in private practice for 14 years, before joining the Texas "P&A," Disability Rights Texas (formerly known as Advocacy, Inc.), which is a non-profit corporation advocating for the rights of people with disabilities. He is currently a Board Member of both the National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA) and the Texas Employment Lawyers Association (TELA). He serves on the Legal Advocacy Subcommittee of the American Diabetes Association, and in the past has served as the Chair of NELA's Disability Rights Comm., and on the legal committees of the Nat. Disability Rights Network and of AIDS Services of Austin.

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Frank Fuentes

Profession:	Development & Construction
Job Title	Owner
Company	F & B Development and Construction
Ethnic Heritage	Hispanic
Gender	Male
Education	Not shown on resume/vita
Category	Commissioner at Large Appointee
Residential Zip Code	78730

Resume Highlights

Listed among the Top 100 Latino Businessmen since 1999. Received the Hispanic Achievement Award for Business Entrepreneurship from Hispanic Business Magazine. One of the founders of the U.S. Hispanic Contractors Association. Chair and member of the Board of Adjustment for the City of Austin. Appointed to the Advisory Board of Small Business for the U.S. Department of Energy in 2005. Appointed as Chair of the Travis County Bond Advisory Committee.

Louis Grachos

Profession:	Executive Management
Job Title	Executive Director
Company	AMOA-Arthouse
Ethnic Heritage	Hispanic
Gender	Male
Education	Univ. of Toronto & New York Univ.
Category	Built Environment
Residential Zip Code	

Resume Highlights

Prior to joining AMOA, Mr. Grachos was director of the renowned Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, NY. During his 10-year tenure Grachos built long-standing relationships with artists, donors, and nationally prominent art collectors. He oversaw of the growth and development of collections, exhibitions, and programming at the 150-year-old gallery, and has a proven track record in fundraising and building strong ties to the community. Perhaps most importantly, Grachos oversaw significant growth of the permanent collection of the Gallery through a variety of significant donations, commissions, and major acquisitions.

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Dora Hernandez

Profession:	
Job Title	
Company	
Ethnic Heritage	Hispanic
Gender	Female
Education	
Category	Commissioner at Large Appointee
Residential Zip Code	

Resume Highlights

Christopher Kennedy

Profession:	Community Leader
Job Title	Chief Executive Officer
Company	Leadership Austin
Ethnic Heritage	Caucasian
Gender	Male
Education	UT Austin; BS Communication
Category	Aesthetics & Design of Public Places
Residential Zip Code	78703

Resume Highlights

Accomplished business and community leader with over 25 years of progressively responsible experience and proven track record to deliver successful results. Self-motivated problem solver with consistent ability to set and achieve prioritized goals by developing and implementing strategic plans. Strong skills in public speaking and conflict resolution.

COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP: Lift Alliance; Communities in Schools; The Trail Foundation; Leadership Austin; Austin Area Research Organization; Austin Community Foundation; St. Austin Church.

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Michael A. Kennedy, SIOR

Profession:	Real Estate
Job Title	CEO, President
Company	Commercial Texas
Ethnic Heritage	Caucasian
Gender	Male
Education	South Tx, Doctor of Juris; Univ. St. Thomas BS Educ
Category	Downtown/Business Community Interests
Residential Zip Code	78703

Resume Highlights

Throughout his career, Mr. Kennedy has been recognized as one of the most active office leasing and sales brokers in the Austin area. active member of the SIOR - Society of Industrial and Office Realtors®. This prestigious designation is recognized throughout the industry for denoting the most well-studied, capable, ethical and experienced brokerage practitioners. He is a charter member and past president of the Austin Commercial Brokers Association (CBA). Former President of the ZACH Theatre Board; Former Board of Trustees Member of the Austin Museum of Art; Founding Fellow of the Austin Bar Association

Michael P. McGill

Profession:	Government Administration
Job Title	Policy Director & Chief of Staff
Company	Office of the Mayor Pro Tem, Sheryl Cole
Ethnic Heritage	Caucasian
Gender	Male
Education	Penn State University
Category	Downtown/Business Community Interests
Residential Zip Code	78702

Resume Highlights

Michael spent 10 years in the Semiconductor industry working on strategic planning and technology roadmaps prior to engaging his passion for public policy with the City of Austin. Certifications include those in planning, logistics and process improvement. He is a graduate of the City Works Academy, Leadership Austin Essentials Class and ARRO McBee Fellowship. Michael is a past president of his neighborhood association and home owner's association and also volunteers actively on behalf of health, parks, arts and historic preservation charities.

CCFC - COMMUNITY FOCUS COMMITTEE - POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

Heather McKissick

Profession:	Organizational Development Specialist
Job Title	VP of Human Resources
Company	University Federal Credit Union
Ethnic Heritage	Caucasian
Gender	Female
Education	Not shown on resume/vita
Category	Legal & Professional
Residential Zip Code	78737

Resume Highlights

Former Chief Executive Officer of Leadership Austin; Director of Organizational Development and Education for the Seton Healthcare Family; Former Assistant Dean of Humanities at St. Edward's University; Recipient of the Austin Business Journal "Profiles in Power" award; Member of the Community Advisory Board for the Young Women's Alliance; Chair of the Advisory Council for the Austin Young Chamber of Commerce which named her "2013 Inspiring Leader of the Year." Honored by the Girl Scouts of Central Texas with their esteemed "2014 Women of Distinction" designation.

Richard Moya

Profession:	Retired
Job Title	Commissioner Precinct 4
Company	Travis County
Ethnic Heritage	Hispanic
Gender	Male
Education	Durham Business College
Category	Commissioner at Large Appointee
Residential Zip Code	78736

Resume Highlights

Consultant on Public Outreach & Governmental Affairs, Various Clients; Consultant, 1st Tee of Greater Austin; Director of Field Operations, First Team Austin; Deputy Chief of Staff, Texas Governor Ann Richards; Director of Field Operations, Texas Agricultural Commissioner Jim Hightower; County Commissioner, Travis County Precinct Four; Chief Investigator, Legal Aid & Defender's Society - Travis County. MEMBERSHIPS: Capital Area Planning Council - Chairman, Past Vice-Chairman; National Association of Counties - Board of Directors; Capital Area Rural Transportation System - Chairman.

CCFC - COMMUNITY FOCUS COMMITTEE - POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

Bill Oakey

Profession:	Retired
Job Title	Accountant
Company	Tx Health and Human Services Comm.
Ethnic Heritage	Caucasian
Gender	Male
Education	Texas State University - BBA
Category	Commissioner at Large Appointee
Residential Zip Code	78703

Resume Highlights

Served on the City of Austin Electric Utility Commission from 1985 to 1990. Recently served for three years on the board of the Austin Visual Arts Association. In 1987, proposed two taxpayer reforms to the Texas Legislature that were adopted into law. These were the Truth in Taxation law for public hearing notices on local property tax increases and the over-65 freeze on school property taxes. Been actively involved in research and communication with the Travis County Commissioners and with county staff regarding the proposed new Civil and County Courthouse.

Linda Phan

Profession:	Policy Management
Job Title	Executive Director
Company	SAHELI – Asian Family Support Services
Ethnic Heritage	Asian
Gender	Female
Education	UT - BS- Evolution; - BA Biology
Category	Family Services
Residential Zip Code	78723

Resume Highlights

Experience with overall organizational management including financial administration and business administration; grant preparation and administration; program planning and development; volunteer management; event planning; strategic planning; Board and community relations; and marketing and communications. Asian Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Institute; National Domestic Violence Hotline; Texas Council on Family Violence, Policy Committee Member; Travis County Family Violence Task Force; Travis County Victim Services Task Force; City of Austin, Commissioner on Immigrant Affairs.

CCFC - COMMUNITY FOCUS COMMITTEE - POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

Rajina Pradham

Profession:	Food Service
Job Title	General Manager
Company	Tarka Indian Kitchen
Ethnic Heritage	Asian Indian
Gender	Female
Education	
Category	Downtown/Business Community Interests
Residential Zip Code	787

Resume Highlights

Frank Rodriguez

Profession:	Financial & Business Planner
Job Title	Business Owner
Company	various
Ethnic Heritage	Hispanic
Gender	Male
Education	Trinity Univ. Urban Studies Program
Category	Commissioner at Large Appointee
Residential Zip Code	78741

Resume Highlights

City of Austin coordinator for city's improvement program (CIP) - involved in development of five bond programs during a time high growth. Promoted to Budget Director for COA's operating budget of over \$700 million and capital improvement program of over \$900 million. Helped to develop and analyze private/public partnerships for a new city hall; healthcare delivery options; led team to perform management audits of several City departments with recommendations to the City Manager and City Council. Served as Vice-Chairman of the City of Austin's Economic Development Commission; Chair of Travis County Appraisal Review Board.

CCFC - COMMUNITY FOCUS COMMITTEE - POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

Cookie Gregory Ruiz, C.F.R.E.

Profession:	Executive Management
Job Title	Executive Director
Company	Ballet Austin
Ethnic Heritage	Caucasian
Gender	Female
Education	Not shown on resume/vita
Category	Downtown/Business Community Interests
Residential Zip Code	78750

Resume Highlights

Has more than 25 years of experience in the areas of strategic planning, organizational development and non-profit fund-raising/management. AWARDS: Austin Business Journal's "Profiles in Power" Award, Austin Community Foundation's Beverly S. Sheffield Award for Excellence as a Nonprofit Executive, The American Red Cross "Clara Barton Medal of Honor," Volunteer of the Year for the Austin Independent School District, The Junior League of Austin Volunteer Extraordinaire Award, the Lone Star Girl Scout Council "Women of Distinction" Award.

Mia L. Sneed, LMSW

Profession:	Social Work
Job Title	Social Worker
Company	Office of Parental Representation
Ethnic Heritage	Black
Gender	Female
Education	UT MS Social Work; Belmont Univ. BA
Category	Family Services
Residential Zip Code	78749

Resume Highlights

Certified Facilitator, Parent Engagement in Self Advocacy (PESA) Training. **Certified** Facilitator, Knowing Who You Are Training. **Member**, Travis County Model Court, Disproportionality Committee. **Field** Instructor, School of Social Work Social Work, University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work; **Field** Instructor, School of Social Work, Texas State University, School of Social Work . **Member**, National Association of Social Workers. **Board** Member, Parenting Across Colors (2011-2012). **Mentor**, Alumni and Community Mentoring Program for Students of Color, University of Texas at Austin, School of Social Work.

CCFC - COMMUNITY FOCUS COMMITTEE - POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

Julia Spann, MSW

Profession:	Executive Management
Job Title	Executive Director
Company	SafePlace
Ethnic Heritage	Caucasian
Gender	Female
Education	UT Arlington-MS; Tx A&M-BS Psychology
Category	Family Services
Residential Zip Code	78751

Resume Highlights

Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas, Past Chair, current member; One Voice Central Texas, Past Chair, current member; I Live Here, I Give Here, Advisory Committee member; Austin Community Foundation Women's Fund, Past co-chair, Membership Committee
 Downtown Austin Alliance, 2005 Board Member; Security and Maintenance Committee member; Austin Area Human Service Association, Executive Committee member; Ending Chronic Homeless Organizing Committee (ECHO); Envision Central Texas, Social Equity Committee member; Texas Council of Family Violence, Member of Public Policy Committee

Kenneth D. Thompson

Profession:	Professional Manager & Supervisor
Job Title	Talk Show Host "The Dad-Show"
Company	Child Inc. Austin
Ethnic Heritage	Black
Gender	Male
Education	Dynamics of Elec Southwest Inst.
Category	Commissioner at Large Appointee
Residential Zip Code	78753

Resume Highlights

Director of "All American Mentoring Project" - emphasis on children from single parent homes. and low social economic status. Program Coordination for fatherhood roundtables for various regions in the state. Lead facilitator, key note speaker, policy writer and reviewer, exploring methods to engaging fathers in various settings throughout Texas. Counseled students on defining career and work related goals and objectives. Obtained grants to defer costs for community programs to assist disadvantage youth. Volunteer coordinator for Travis County's Sheriff Campaign Community Program, Adult Education, "Focus on the Father"

CCFC - COMMUNITY FOCUS COMMITTEE - POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

Jeffrey W. Travillion, Sr.

Profession:	Senior Business Consultant
Job Title	Division Manager, Systems Engineering
Company	COA - Public Works Dept.
Ethnic Heritage	Black
Gender	Male
Education	UT LBJ School; Master of Public Affairs
Category	Commissioner at Large Appointee
Residential Zip Code	78660

Resume Highlights

In 1996 selected by Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock to be part of a team to develop the Family Pathfinders Program that was designed to identify community resources and build a community infrastructure for Texans receiving public assistance. Co-Chairman of Education and Employment for the African American Quality of Life Initiative. Staff liaison to City of Austin and AISD Joint Committee to identify partnership opportunities and helped develop best practices to support and enhance educational attainment for students. Graduate of Leadership Austin. Executive Committee Member of the Board of the Austin Project.

Rosa Rios Valdez

Profession:	Business Development/real estate lending
Job Title	Chief Executive Officer
Company	BCL of Texas
Ethnic Heritage	Hispanic
Gender	Female
Education	UT Austin graduate
Category	Commissioner at Large Appointee
Residential Zip Code	78736

Resume Highlights

Certified in development finance by the National development Council of New York. Has served as Executive Director for BCL of Texas since 1997, growing company's net assets over 21 fold from \$600,000 to over \$13,000,000. Has served as manager of business finance in the Texas Governor's Office of Economic Development. Former Director of Economic Development for LCRA. Serves on the Economic Development Board for the Capital area Planning Council of Government. Serves on the Board of the NeighborWorks America Community Capital Corporation. Completed Exec. Mgt. program at Harvard University, JFK School of Government.

CCFC - COMMUNITY FOCUS COMMITTEE - POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

Michael J. Whellan

Profession:	Attorney
Job Title	Civil Litigator
Company	Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody
Ethnic Heritage	Caucasian
Gender	Male
Education	UT, Lib.I Arts , B.A; J.D. with Honors
Category	Legal & Professional
Residential Zip Code	78731

Resume Highlights

Michael Whellan represents local and national clients in a variety of disputes, including those involving trade secrets, contracts, misrepresentations, fraud and product liability. He also represents clients before city and county governmental entities in land-use and business matters. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Travis County - President 1999-2000; Board of Directors, 1994-2001; Founders Board, 2001-present. Travis County Dispute Resolution Center - Board of Directors, 1995-1999; Advisory Board, 1999-present; Volunteer Mediator. Leadership Austin, Class of 1996-1997.

Laura Wolf

Profession:	Attorney
Job Title	Executive Director
Company	CASA of Travis County, Inc.
Ethnic Heritage	Caucasian
Gender	Female
Education	UT - J.D.; Smith College - BA Psychology
Category	Family Services
Residential Zip Code	78731

Resume Highlights

Leads non-profit organization with a budget of more than \$3 million, a staff of 47 and a volunteer base of 600 in providing advocacy for children removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect. COMMUNITY SERVICE: Children's Justice Act Task Force, Texas Center for the Judiciary - Elected member of statewide task force and chair of Grants Committee; Travis County Child Protective Services Board - Board member appointed by County Commissioner; The Junior League of Austin - Past President & Treasurer; One Voice Central Texas - Treasurer; Con MI MADRE - Board of Directors; Austin Rape Crisis - Former President.

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Melvin G. Wrenn

Profession:	Economic & Business Development
Job Title	Founding Principal
Company	LCM Capital Markets Group
Ethnic Heritage	Black
Gender	Male
Education	Not shown on resume/vita
Category	Commissioner at Large Appointee
Residential Zip Code	78724

Resume Highlights

Specialized in the re-vitalization of distressed low-to-moderate communities, nonprofit capacity building and technical assistance to companies in business and strategic planning. Directed the commercial corridor and community development for Austin Revitalization Authority (ARA) in Austin, Texas. Worked with Texas community organizations and financial institutions in forming partnerships under the Community Reinvestment Act. Commission Chairman, Travis County Housing Authority; Director, Strategic Housing Finance Corporation; Board Member, Center For Mexican American Cultural Arts.

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**TRAVIS COUNTY CIVIL AND FAMILY COURT HOUSE (TCCFCH)
COMMUNITY FOCUS COMMITTEE (CFC)
POTENTIAL MEMBERS' DEMOGRAPHICS**

	*TRAVIS COUNTY	COMMUNITY FOCUS COMMITTEE	RESIDENTIAL ZIP CODES	
Asian	6.10%	(2) 07.14%	78660	1
Black	9.00%	(5) 17.86%	78701	1
Caucasian	50.10%	(15) 53.57%	78702	1
Hispanic	33.80%	(6) 21.43%	78703	3
Other	1.00%		78723	2
Total	100%	(28) 100%		
			78730	1
Female	49.50%	(12) 46.15%	78731	2
Male	50.50%	(14) 53.85%	78736	2
Total	100%	(26) 100%	78737	1
			78739	1
			78741	1
			78745	1
			78746	1
			78749	1
			78750	1
			78751	1
			78753	1
			78757	1
			Unknown	5
			Total	28

*U.S. Department of Commerce - U.S. Census Bureau 2012

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