



MEMORANDUM

To: Department Directors *RD*

From: Rodney Gonzales, Assistant City Manager for Economic Opportunity & Affordability
Christopher Shorter, Assistant City Manager for Health & Environment and Culture & Lifelong Learning *CS*

Date: March 20, 2019

Subject: Update on Homeless Strategy Officer (HSO) Recruitment Process

As many of you know, the City of Austin began a search for a newly established Homeless Strategy Officer position in December 2018. A cross-section of staff has been hard at work since December evaluating candidates from around the country. Unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful in hiring an ideal candidate. As a result, hiring for this position will be further delayed.

The work to be accomplished through this position is critical, and every effort is being made to restart the recruitment process so that the position can be filled. The recruitment process will incorporate two changes that will help to facilitate the hiring for this position. Those changes include the following:

- Elevating the position to an Executive Level position.
- Engaging a recruiting firm to lead the hiring process.

As an interim step, Veronica Briseño, Director for Small and Minority Business Resources (SMBR), has accepted a temporary assignment to serve as the Interim Homeless Strategy Officer, effective Monday, March 25th. We are grateful that Veronica has accepted this assignment and will continue to build on the existing initiatives and efforts. Veronica has over 20 years of proactive municipal government experience and brings with her the ability to coalesce groups which will be critical to this important endeavor. As you may recall, Parks and Recreation Director Sara Hensley was deeply involved in the City's homelessness initiatives which led to the creation of the Homeless Strategy Officer position. Sara has graciously offered her counsel, guidance, and support to Veronica as she embarks on this temporary assignment.

While Veronica is on temporary assignment, Edward Campos, currently Assistant Director for SMBR, will serve as Acting Director for SMBR.

Please join us in welcoming and supporting Veronica and Edward on their respective temporary assignments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
City Manager's Executive Team