

City Manager announces Assistant City Manager for Health & Environment and Culture & Lifelong Learning

AUSTIN, TX (austintexas.gov) - City Manager Spencer Cronk has selected Stephanie Hayden-Howard as the next Assistant City Manager (ACM) for Health & Environment and Culture & Lifelong Learning after completing a recruitment process that attracted the interest of candidates from across the nation. She will start her new position on May 10, 2021.



Stephanie Hayden-Howard will start her new position on May 10, 2021.

Hayden-Howard has extensive management experience working for the City of Austin. Most recently, as Director of Austin Public Health. In that role, she was instrumental in driving the department's ability to protect the public health of Austin and Travis County residents from infectious diseases and environmental threats and educate them about the benefits of healthful behaviors in avoiding chronic diseases

"I am very happy to announce Stephanie Hayden-Howard as the City's next Assistant City Manager for Health & Environment and Culture & Lifelong Learning. Her experience in public health matters and management principles are crucial to driving the City's programs to ensure services are provided equitably in our community," said City Manager Spencer Cronk.

The ACM for Health & Environment and Culture & Lifelong Learning is responsible for providing bold and inclusive

leadership to advance the assigned outcomes and strategies outlined in the City's Strategic Direction.

Hayden-Howard will oversee the following portfolio of city departments which includes \$394.4 million in budget and over 2,600 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs):

Parks and Recreation - 744.75 FTEs, \$109.7 million budget

Austin Resource Recovery - 501 FTEs, \$106.8 million budget

Austin Public Library - 445.6 FTEs, \$58.9 million budget

Austin Public Health - 547.5 FTEs, \$103.0 million budget

Animal Services - 114 FTEs, \$16.0 million budget

"I'm honored to be appointed as the City's next Assistant City Manager for Health & Envi-

ronment and Culture & Lifelong Learning and look forward to the challenges and opportunities in this new role to provide solutions that are cross-departmental in nature and involve collaboration with community stakeholders to meet the needs of area residents," said Hayden-Howard.

Recognizing that Austinites are instrumental to preserving and improving community health, our environment, Austin's culture, and expanding lifelong learning, Hayden-Howard will be scheduling public meetings with community members in the coming months.

Hayden-Howard began her career with the City of Austin 20 years ago. During that time, she held several positions with progressive responsibilities, in-

cluding supervisor, manager, assistant director, deputy director, and most recently, as Director of APH. Prior to working for the City, she worked as the Director of Clinical Services at the Alternative Learning Center with Austin Independent School District and Assistant Director at the Williamson County Mental Health Center.

She is a Licensed Master Social Worker and has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work from Prairie View A & M University and a Master's in Social Work from Our Lady of the Lake University Worden School of Social Services.

The search for the ACM began in December 2020, when former Assistant City Manager Chris Shorter announced his departure to become the City Administrator of Baltimore. Shannon Jones, former Director of Austin Public Health, began serving as the Interim Assistant City Manager in January 2021. During the recruitment for the permanent ACM, Mr. Jones oversaw a number of City priorities, including homelessness, key elements of the City's COVID-19 response, and parks and open spaces.

As a result of Hayden-Howard's appointment, current APH Assistant Director Adrienne Sturup will serve as the Interim APH Director while a search for the next Austin Public Health director begins in the coming months.

Texas Political Clout Hightens

by **Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon**
VILLAGER Columnist

(VILLAGER) - Over the years, Texas has seen its population grow at a fast rate. The Texas population has outpaced most of the 49 other states. Numerous businesses have relocated their headquarters to the State of Texas. As the population expands, so does diversity and political clout.

Texas has seen its African American community increase. According to the Cen-

sus, African Americas jump to 12.9% or about 3,554,000 million. As a result, Texas has one of the largest Black population throughout the United States.

In addition, our political clout increased. Texas gained two additional seats in Congress, and now it is up to the Texas Senate and Texas House of Representatives to represent fair congressional boundaries.

Austin Voters Decide on Eight Propositions

by **Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon**
VILLAGER Columnist

(VILLAGER) - Monday, April 19, 2021, early voting kicked off throughout Central Texas. However, the voter turnout has been low. According to the Travis County Election board, only ten percent of Austinites had voted.

Unlike prior years, there are eight propositions on the ballot that will change the face of

the Austin City Council. For example, Proposition C will give more power to the Police oversight. As Travis County regulates police issues, prop C is a step toward better police accountability.

Proposition F would reduce the authority of the City Manager and increase the Mayor's power. Moreover, it would finally allow for policy, to begin with, the Mayor, giving the Mayor opportunity to veto legislation.

Togo's Independence Day Celebration

by **Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon**
VILLAGER Columnist

(VILLAGER) - On April 25, 2021, the growing Togolese American Community celebrated yet another year of Independence. Several candidates and officials attended the celebration. The event was small due to the COVID 19 guidelines. This event served as an opportunity for the candidates to meet with the Togolese community and other African leaders.

The Togo Independence Day Celebration is a method to unite the Togolese Community and showcase their culture and history.

Over the years, Central Texas has seen a growing trend with the Togolese-American community and sought to organize itself by starting an association. Having a legally established association will help their organization and outreach, educate the greater Texas community about Togo.

APD to Participate in Active Attack Training Exercise at Camp Mabry

AUSTIN, TX (austintexas.gov) - As in previous years, the Austin Police Department (APD) will be participating in an active attack training exercise on the grounds of Camp Mabry. This year's training exercise will take place on Wednesday, April 28, 2021 from approximately 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will involve a number of agencies includ-

ing Austin-Travis County EMS, Austin Fire Department, and Camp Mabry security personnel.

The purpose of this exercise is to train alongside our public safety partners by engaging in a realistic scenario that tests and refreshes response protocols to ensure we are prepared. This training exercise is not in reaction to any previous incidents nor

are there any known threats to our community at this time.

Residents near Camp Mabry will notice a marked increase in the presence of police, fire and EMS throughout the exercise.

The media is invited to attend. You are asked to enter Camp Mabry through the main gates located off 35th Street at 9:30 a.m.

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