



Business | Values | Community

## Austin LGBT Chamber Resolution in Support of Convention Center Expansion

**Austin, Texas** (July 16th, 2019) The following comment was released today by the Austin LGBT Chamber Board of Directors:

*"In response to the recent unanimous Austin City Council action in approving the Convention Center expansion as outlined by UT study, the Austin LGBT Chamber of Commerce calls for full support of the expansion and opposes the recent petition to stop the process from moving forward. We believe the increase to the hospitality market creates jobs, opportunities for advancement and more funds coming into our community to support local business, the arts, historic preservation and creates an opportunity for a dedicated h funding stream to impact homelessness. The expansion also will generates additional property tax revenue for AISD, Travis County, ACC, and Central Health; as well as increased sales tax collections for the city."*

### Background

On May 23rd, 2019 the Austin City Council unanimously passed the resolution to expand the Convention Center. Part of that includes and Hotel Occupancy Taxes (HOT) increase to go from our current 7% to 9% to further increase arts, music, and historic funding - the maximum allowable by state law. These taxes are paid for by visitors and not by local property taxes. In addition, under the new convention center expansion, the hotel industry is self-imposing a new tourist tax by creating a Tourism Public Improvement District (TPID). These TPID funds are not restricted by the state laws as are HOT and are under the management of the hotel industry. The hoteliers have agreed to dedicate \$4-10 million a year from this TPID to help address homelessness issues if the convention center is expanded.

Associated Links:

Visitor Impact Task Force - <http://www.austintexas.gov/content/visitor-impact-task-force>

Tourism Commission - <http://www.austintexas.gov/content/tourism-commission>

UT Report - [https://issuu.com/utsoa/docs/frameworks\\_for\\_placemaking\\_utsoacsd/198](https://issuu.com/utsoa/docs/frameworks_for_placemaking_utsoacsd/198)

Endorsed by the Austin Black Chamber and Austin Hispanic Chamber

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