

May 24, 2024

RE: Support for May 30, 2024 Austin City Council agenda item 88 – Extend term and add funds to Agreement with The Other Ones Foundation

Honorable Mayor Watson and Austin City Council Members,

The Downtown Austin Alliance encourages you to support item 88 on the Austin City Council's May 30, 2024 meeting agenda.

In August 2020, The Other Ones Foundation (TOOF) began coordinating and managing services at the State-owned site now known as Esperanza Community. In 2021, TOOF obtained a 10-year lease to operate this 5 acre site and launched an ambitious plan to create 200 micro-shelter units at what has now become Austin's first micro-shelter community.

Today, TOOF is successfully operating 100 micro-shelter units on this site and providing private shelter accommodations and essential services for Austin's most vulnerable citizens.

Passage of item 88 will provide TOOF the funding needed to meet its goal to create 200 micro-shelter units and complete this phase of Esperanza Community. This comes at a time when Austin's homeless population is increasing, and it will help offset the closing of the City-operated temporary shelter at the Marshalling Yard in Spring 2025.

We respectfully ask that you support the passage of item 88.

Sincerely,



Dewitt Peart
President & CEO

CC: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager

The Downtown Austin Alliance mission:
To create, preserve and enhance the vibe, value and vitality of downtown Austin for everyone.