

AGENDA



Thursday, November 29, 2007

**Management Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 11**

Subject: Approve an ordinance amending the City Code to repeal and replace Chapter 2-1 relating to Boards and Commissions; amending Sections 2-7-71 and 2-7-72 of the City Code relating to financial disclosure by the Board members; repealing Section 2-8-22 of the City Code relating to Board work plans, Section 2-8-23 of the City Code relating to the Policy Planning and Budget Committee, and Section 2-10-35 relating to the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee; and providing administrative transition provisions relating to boards.

Boards and Commission Action: The provisions of the proposed ordinance related to financial reporting requirements and conflict of interest disclosure were recommended by the Ethics Review Commission.

In April 2007, the City Council passed a resolution describing the board and commission system as vital to the form of government in Austin. Because of the size and importance of this system, Council declared it imperative that resources be expended in the most effective and prudent ways possible. The City Manager was directed to review the system and make recommendations for improvements based on a Board and Commission Task Force report completed in 2003. This Task Force was appointed in 2001 and directed to survey board members to assess issues and areas of concern.

Staff conducted a briefing to Council on staff's recommendations on October 11, 2007. At that meeting, staff highlighted their next steps in this process. Staff went to the Ethics Review Commission on October 22, 2007 and made a presentation regarding two specific recommendations: financial reporting requirements and conflict of interest forms. A full public hearing occurred at the November 8, 2007 Council meeting to receive public comment regarding the proposed changes.