

AGENDA



Wednesday, June 18, 2008

**Management Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 30**

Subject: Approve an ordinance amending Chapter 2-1 of the City Code relating to City Boards and Commissions; amending Chapter 14-2 of the City Code relating to the People's Renaissance Market; and repealing Section 2-1-106 of the City Code relating to the Austin Area Comprehensive HIV Planning Council, Section 2-1-109 of the City Code relating to the Austin-Travis County EMS Advisory Board, Section 2-1-149 of the City Code relating to the Impact Fee Advisory Committee, Section 2-1-166 of the City Code relating to the Renaissance Market Commission, Section 2-1-170 relating to the Sign Control Board, Section 2-1-184 relating to the Urban Renewal Agency, and Section 14-2-42 relating to an appeal by an applicant or licensee to sell merchandise at the People's Renaissance Market.

For More Information: Shirley Brown Gentry, City Clerk 974-2210

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 and it was approved at the November 29, 2007 Council meeting.

Staff and board members have been working since November on implementing Ordinance No. 20071129-011, which restructured the City's boards and commissions system. As the implementation progressed, several problems were encountered. The proposed ordinance attempts to resolve them.

Some boards cannot comply with Chapter 2-1 because of conflicts with other provisions. This ordinance removes the Impact Fee Advisory Committee, the Austin-Travis County EMS Advisory Board, the Urban Renewal Agency and the Austin Area Comprehensive HIV Planning Council from Chapter 2-1. These bodies will continue in existence and be governed by applicable State or Federal laws, Charter provisions or interlocal agreement. The ordinance also repeals the provisions concerning the Sign Control Board, because no members have ever been appointed. The ordinance dissolves the Renaissance Market Commission allowing staff to issue the license, rather than requiring that vendors wait for a board meeting in order to get their license. Finally, the ordinance clarifies some of the current ordinance language, making it easier to understand.