

AGENDA



Thursday, July 24, 2008

**Management Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 40**

Subject: Approve an ordinance amending Chapter 14-2 and Chapter 2-1 of the City Code relating to the People's Renaissance Market; repealing Section 14-2-42 relating to an appeal by an applicant or licensee to sell merchandise at the People's Renaissance Market and Section 2-1-166 of the City Code relating to the Renaissance Market Commission; and dissolving the Renaissance Market Commission.

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

In April 2007, the City Council passed a resolution describing the boards and commissions 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 Boards and Commissions 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 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. After review of the Renaissance Market Commission's duties, it is recommended that City staff assume the administration of the licensure of Renaissance Market vendors in order to ensure timeliness and flexibility for applicants and vendors who seek new and renewed licenses.

At the Council meeting held on June 18, 2008, staff was directed to bring back for Council's consideration the ordinance language that was postponed at that time. Thus, the current draft ordinance, if passed by Council, would dissolve the Renaissance Market Commission.