

RESOLUTION NO. 20080807-049

WHEREAS, federal crane standards for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) were last updated in 1971, prior to decades of technological advances and differences in the way today's cranes are operated; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin does not currently keep an inventory of cranes or their relevant inspection information on file; and

WHEREAS, any information related to mandated OSHA inspections is not required to be presented as a condition of development in the City of Austin, and

WHEREAS, it is common practice for the City of Austin to require inspection on other fundamental structural initiatives as a condition of development; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the safety of Austin and its residents for the City to take a more active role to ensure cranes erected within its jurisdiction are properly inspected and deemed fit for operation; and

WHEREAS, in the past five months of this year, more than a dozen construction workers have been killed and dozens more injured, including construction workers, first responders and bystanders; and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of so many accidents and injuries nationwide coupled with the increase in multi-story development throughout Austin, demands increased City oversight; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:


That the City Manager is directed to study existing processes to determine where in the development process the City can obtain information relative to crane safety and inspection and return to Council with a plan for implementation by August 28, 2008.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Manager is directed to study best practices nationwide regarding crane safety, inspections and operator certification, including the new OSHA guidelines set for release for public comment in August 2008, and make a recommendation for Council action by October 2, 2008.

ADOPTED: August 7, 2008

ATTEST:


Shirley A Gentry
City Clerk