

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin and its citizens have a strong interest in historic preservation, recognizing the broad positive impacts of preservation, including significant contributions to our local economy and our tax base; and

**WHEREAS**, historic preservation is consistent with the City's efforts to encourage sustainability, energy efficiency and green building, as well as striving to discourage landfill waste and suburban sprawl; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Texas Historical Commission, historic preservation generates more than \$1.8 billion of economic activity annually in Texas, and close to \$140 million annually in the Austin area alone.

**WHEREAS**, the Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan encourages the review and revision of codes which inhibit the preservation, restoration, and use of designated landmarks and areas (Policy 151.2); and

**WHEREAS**, owners of historic properties may permit a structure or its components to deteriorate to a state that it becomes economically or functionally impractical to rehabilitate due to damage to structural components or those that define the essential historic characteristics; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

That the City Manager is directed to evaluate best practices nationwide and initiate City Code amendments to the Land Development Code to:

- a. Prohibit the demolition by neglect of historic properties;
- b. Revise the vote requirements for the Historic Landmark Commission's recommendations for historic zoning;
- c. Amend City Code Chapter 25-11 to revise provisions relating to Historic Landmark Commission zoning procedures;
- d. Clarify Section 11-1-22 regarding property tax exemptions for historic landmarks;

Clarify the Historic Preservation Officer's authority to administratively approve minor projects in National Register Historic Districts; and

- e. Amend Section 25-1-46 to provide that the appropriate Land Use Commission considers applications to designate or modify a historic district.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the City Manager is directed to identify potential funding sources to fund an update to the existing historic preservation survey, including an inventory of city-owned properties eligible for historic designation. The City Manager shall bring back a contract for the survey for council consideration on or before April 16, 2009.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2008      **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Shirley A. Gentry  
City Clerk