

RESOLUTION NO. 20081016-040

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, and

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;
- e. Clarify the Historic Preservation Officer's authority to administratively approve minor projects in National Register Historic Districts; and
- f. 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: October 16, 2008

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk