Subject: Approve an ordinance agreeing to the arbitrator’s decision and approving a Service Plan for the Peninsula Annexation Area.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding necessary to provide general governmental services to this tract is available in the budgets of the departments which will be providing the services. Related to Item #19.

For More Information: Virginia Collier 974-2022; Jackie Chuter, 974-2613; Sylvia Arzola, 974-6448.

Prior Council Action: December 15, 2005 - Council approved an amendment to the City of Austin’s Municipal Annexation Plan to include the Peninsula area and begin the annexation process.

August 24, 2006 and August 29, 2006 - City Council conducted public hearings.

The Peninsula annexation area was included in the City’s Municipal Annexation Plan (MAP) on December 15, 2005, with an effective date of December 31, 2005. Inclusion in the MAP started a three-year process leading up to annexation. Following two public hearings, city staff and representatives of the property owners selected by the Travis County Commissioners Court attended numerous meetings in an attempt to reach agreement on the terms of a negotiated annexation service plan. In accordance with the state-mandated MAP process, representatives filed a written request for arbitration and the parties participated in arbitration proceedings. The following proposed amendments to the service plan outlined below are the result of the arbitrator’s opinion and decision from the arbitration proceedings:

- A binding Automatic Aid and First Responder Agreement for service to the area with Travis County Emergency Services District #9 that is valid for the term of the Service Plan or that is renewable annually for the term of the Plan, or until the completion of a new Austin Fire Department fire station in similar proximity to the Peninsula Area as Travis County ESD #9, Station No. 1.

- A commitment to budget two new police officers, consistent with the Austin Police Department’s adopted goal of a ratio of two officers per 1,000 residents and the Peninsula’s population of over 1,000 residents.

- A commitment to provide regular police patrols in the Peninsula Area as part of APD’s Central West Command consistent with the manner that such patrols are provided to other areas within the Central West Command at the time of annexation.

- A commitment to make improvements in the road surface, signage, railing, and related traffic control aspects of the Emmett Shelton Bridge on Redbud Trail, to improve safety while it remains in use prior to its renovation/replacement.

The requested action would accept the arbitrator’s decision, and approve the annexation service plan revised to include the above provisions, in accordance with the decision.
The annexation itself is tentatively scheduled for City Council approval December 11, 2008 and will be effective December 31, 2008.