

## AGENDA



Thursday, May 21, 2009

**Item(s) to Set Public Hearing(s)  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 42**

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**Subject:** Set a public hearing to consider an ordinance amending Chapters 11-1, 25-2, and 25-11 of the City Code relating to tax exemptions for historic landmarks, historic landmark procedures, and demolition by neglect. (Suggested date and time: June 18, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX)

**For More Information:** Steve Sadowsky, 974-6454; Sylvia Arzola, 974-6448.

**Prior Council Action:** October 16, 2008 - Council directed the City Manager to initiate code amendments relating to tax exemptions for historic landmarks, historic landmark procedures, and demolition by neglect.

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On October 16, 2008, the City Council directed the City Manager to initiate code amendments to prohibit the demolition by neglect of historic structures, revise the Historic Landmark Commission voting requirements for historic zoning cases, amend Chapter 25-11 relating to historic zoning procedures, clarify Section 11-1-22 relating to the property tax exemptions for historic landmarks, clarify the authority of the City Historic Preservation Office to administratively approve certain minor projects in historic districts, and amend Section 25-1-46 to provide for the review of applications for local historic districts by the appropriate Land Use Commission.

Neighborhood Planning and Zoning staff reviewed similar provisions from other cities including Dallas, Fort Worth, and San Antonio and drafted an ordinance for review by the Operations Committee of the Historic Landmark Commission. The Operations Committee of the Historic Landmark Commission and the Landmark Commission have recommended approval of the proposed amendments with the additional recommendation that the amount of property owner support required for the designation of a local historic district be reduced from the current 60% to 51%.

The Codes and Ordinances Committee of the Planning Commission has reviewed the proposed amendments and supports the additional recommendation of the Historic Landmark Commission. The proposed Code amendments are scheduled for review by the Zoning and Platting Commission on May 5, 2009 and by the Planning Commission on May 12, 2009.