

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, The City of Austin and its citizens have a strong interest in historic preservation, as evidenced in the Austin Tomorrow Plan and many subsequent planning documents which express a high value on preserving the city's unique character and heritage; and

WHEREAS, historic preservation investments have broad positive impacts, 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, the City of Austin initiated its landmark preservation ordinance in 1974, adopted its preservation plan in 1981, and passed revisions to the program in 2004, 2006 and 2009; and

WHEREAS, there has been a marked increase in the number of owner-initiated applications for landmark designations in the past two years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin's landmark preservation program provides tax benefits to designated structures that are considerably larger than those provided elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin includes many properties of architectural, historic, archeological, and cultural significance, some of which have not received historic designation or yet been identified as significant because there is no current survey of the city's historic assets upon which to base our planning; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Landmark Commission, by its charter, may recommend amendments to the code relating to historic preservation; and may advise the City Council on matters relating to historic preservation;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That Council hereby initiates and directs the City Manager to process amendments to the City Code to establish the following temporary measures which would expire on December 31, 2011:

1. Limit the number of owner-initiated historic landmark nominations to three per month; and
2. Limit the number of owner-initiated and Historic Landmark Commission-initiated historic landmark nominations which are located in National Register Historic Districts or Local Historic Districts to one per month.

The City Manager is directed to report to Council with recommendations on these amendments by July 29, 2010.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Manager is hereby directed to work with the Historic Landmark Commission to prepare recommendations concerning allocation of city resources for historic preservation purposes and the formula for tax incentives for preserving historic structures, and to return to Council with these recommendations no later than December 31, 2010.

ADOPTED: _____, 2010

ATTEST: _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk