RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, "meet and confer" practices are interest-based negotiations in which neither the employer nor the employee is mandated to meet or to come to an agreement; and

WHEREAS, municipalities around the state have accepted the practice of “meet and confer” so that employees may negotiate and reach agreements with their employers on issues concerning wages, hours, terms, and conditions of employment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has accepted “meet and confer” practices for the purposes of successfully negotiating Fire, Police, and EMS personnel contracts in the past; and

WHEREAS, non-civil service City of Austin employees should be afforded the same right to select a bargaining agent to negotiate and represent their members as their civil service counterparts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has supported “meet and confer” legislation for non-civil service City of Austin employees as recently as the previous legislative sessions in 2007 and 2009; and

WHEREAS, the 82nd Legislature will be in session beginning January 11, 2011, and an interest has been expressed to again file legislation that will allow non-civil service municipal employees to “meet and confer” with the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, chances of passing "meet and confer" legislation increase greatly with the filing of a bill that is agreed to by all parties and filed prior to the legislative session; and

WHEREAS, November 8, 2010, was the first day that a bill may be pre-filed in advance of the 82nd Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that it is in the best interest of all parties involved to begin discussions about legislation that is agreed to by all parties immediately; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

That the City Council supports the passage of certain "meet and confer" pieces of legislation covering City of Austin non-civil service employees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Manager is directed to meet with all appropriate stakeholders and legislators to work toward creating "meet and confer" legislation that is agreed to by all parties so that legislation may be filed as soon as is practicable.

ADOPTED:_____, 2010 **ATTEST:** _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk