

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the 2010 census data for Austin was released in May 2011 showing an increase of population in the corporate limits and no ethnic or demographic group exists as a majority of the city's population; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Charter Revision Committee established by Resolution No. 20070405-029 made a recommendation to City Council on a four to two vote, with one member absent, that the City Council move forward with placing the issue of geographic district representation on the ballot but did not recommend a plan or map; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, City Council approved Resolution 20110428-048 directing the City Manager prepare a draft plan reflecting single member districts in preparation for a November 2012 ballot; and

WHEREAS, the council adopted districting criteria and guidelines with Resolutions No. 20110526-024 and 20110526-025 on May 26, 2011; and

WHEREAS, any change to the current charter would require the vote of the citizens that could be held as soon as November, 2011; and

WHEREAS, any change to establish district or a hybrid district/at-large system would require plan (map) and structure proposals to be submitted to the City by August 1, 2011 if the election is to be held in November 2011 and these plans and maps must adhere to criteria established by council including maintaining communities of interest, the Voting Rights Act, Amendments 14 and

15 to the United States Constitution, and Texas Government Code sections 2058.001 and 2058.002; and

WHEREAS, significant public input must be considered in any plan or map to be sent to the voters by the City Council before it is sent to the Justice Department; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Council establishes a Committee on Geographic Representation composed of fifteen members who are representative of the community and residents of Austin. The mayor shall recommend three Committee members and council members shall recommend two who will be appointed by the City Council on June 23, 2011. This Committee is subject to 2-1-3(D) requiring compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

The Committee shall advise the City Council on proposed amendments to the City Charter related to geographical representation for the election of council members. Such advice shall be based on input from a diverse number of citizens with outreach to community and civic organizations. In particular, the Committee shall review and report on proposed plans (maps) proposing single member districts or a representation system that may include both single member and at-large council seats for council member elections.

The Committee shall begin its work as soon as all members are appointed and shall work expeditiously with the goal of recommending amendments for consideration by the City Council by August 18, 2011. The City Council may by

resolution expand the scope of work or amend the timeline in the event the election is not to be held in November 2011 for the Committee.

The City Manager shall provide appropriate resources to the Committee.

ADOPTED: _____, 2011

ATTEST: _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk

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