

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2007, the Austin City Council passed Resolution No. 20070308-028 which proclaimed that it is the will of the City Council that Austin become certified as a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Community Wildlife Habitat; and

WHEREAS, in March of 2009 Austin became the largest metropolitan area in the country and the first city in Texas to be certified by NWF as a Community Wildlife Habitat; and

WHEREAS, the code of ordinances does not allow the accumulation of weeds or grass more than 12 inches tall on a person's property or in the area from the person's property line to the adjacent curblin; and

WHEREAS, the code of ordinances also allows the director of the Solid Waste Services Department to determine if "unsightly" condition exists on a property; and

WHEREAS, providing ground cover, meadows and native understory vegetation are all ways of providing cover for wildlife as well as places for them to raise their young and are criteria used by NWF to determine if a yard meets their habitat requirements; and

WHEREAS, what might be considered “weeds” or “unsightly” by some residents, Code Enforcement Officers or the Director of the Solid Waste Services Director is actually an integral part of providing suitable wildlife habitat; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to work with the relevant City departments and community stakeholders to identify those elements in the City code of ordinances which may be in conflict with the Wildlife Habitat Certification program and recommend to Council any necessary amendments to resolve those conflicts.

ADOPTED: _____, 2011

ATTEST: _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk