

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, as part of the Affordable Housing Incentives Task Force, the City of Austin adopted geographic dispersion as one of three core values to serve as guiding principles for City affordable housing policies and programs; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 City of Austin Housing Market Study found that housing costs across Austin rose by 85 percent between 1998 and 2008, placing strain on the budgets of Austin residents and continuing the trend of families relocating to more affordable, suburban areas of the region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin, as a recipient of HUD funds, is required to affirmatively further fair housing through the analysis of impediments to fair housing choice; and

WHEREAS, that analysis has identified that the City's housing policy should be driven by the assumption that deconcentration of neighborhood-level poverty will yield better access to opportunity for low-income residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has encouraged geographic dispersion in affordable housing development through a scoring system that recognizes “high opportunity” areas, considering availability of sustainable employment, high-performing schools, a safe environment, access to quality health care, adequate transportation, quality childcare and safe neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, achieving greater geographic dispersion of affordable housing may require an expansion of the strategies employed, and such shifts in approaches would require extensive public input from stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, communities across the nation have implemented policies and strategies to geographically distribute affordable housing through goal-based, capacity-based, and strategic-based policies, as described in the attached Appendix A; **NOW THEREFORE**

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

That the City Manager is directed to work with the Community Development Commission and other stakeholders to develop

recommendations for additional strategies of achieving geographic dispersion of affordable housing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to brief the City Council on additional strategies for geographic dispersion of affordable housing and the feasibility of implementing those strategies for the City of Austin by March 27, 2012.

ADOPTED: _____, 2011 **ATTEST:** _____
Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk

APPENDIX A

Goal-Based Siting Policies

- Divide jurisdictions by new or existing geographic boundaries
- Assign affordable housing goal for each area

Capacity-Based Siting Policies

- Define capacity in geographic areas through the creation of a formula
- Base on various grounds, including the proportion of extremely low-income persons in the community; the geographic area's capacity to absorb new growth; and projected future population and job growth

Strategic Siting Policies

- Target funding for affordable housing on geographic areas of strategic interest
- Align with other systems to ensure maximum investment in affordable housing siting (e.g. public transit, employment centers, social services, health facilities, schools)