

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the success of Austin becoming the “most livable city in the nation” depends upon the capacity to improve the overall quality of life and vibrant urban fabric of its neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, inherent in the desire of developing a dense, vibrant urban community is the promotion of policies that establish a desirable quality of living to attract and sustain families in Austin’s neighborhoods, including downtown; and

WHEREAS, as the downtown area continues to increase in density with higher residential density and larger buildings, the need for urban noise mitigation also increases as these new residential uses mix with increased business activity, evening and night activity, and public transit and traffic; and

WHEREAS, new and taller buildings in the downtown area create challenges to mitigating noise by potentially amplifying and reflecting sound; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin, as the jurisdiction responsible for approving a set of building standards, has the responsibility to ensure the regulations adopted promote a high quality of living for its residents; and

WHEREAS, pre-construction implementation of sound mitigation techniques may be more cost-effective and efficient than post-construction fixes to resolve conflicts with urban noise; and

WHEREAS, improvements to buildings standards, such as the installation of certain types of windows and insulation, may improve a

dwelling unit's ability to mitigate outdoor noise and also have a supplementary beneficial impact on energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, Austin is internationally recognized as the Live Music Capitol of the World, and the music industry accounts for more than \$1 billion of measurable economic and fiscal impact; and

WHEREAS, policies to promote quality of life through noise mitigation need to reflect and respect the importance of live music for the Austin community and economy and seek to balance the interests of existing music venues and entertainment districts where conflicts may occur with new residential units; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Music Commission recommended that the City Council explore changes in the building code to incorporate sound mitigation techniques in the design and construction phases of any new development; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to work with the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals and other stakeholders to develop recommendations on improvements to the Land Development Code and technical codes to address sound mitigation for construction of new residential dwelling units and other uses with overnight guests, such as hotels, in the downtown area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager shall bring the recommendations to the Planning Commission, Design Commission, Downtown Commission, and Music Commission for review and consideration.

ADOPTED: _____, 2011 **ATTEST:** _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk