

RESOLUTION NO. 20120524-092

WHEREAS, recently economic incentives have been a topic of public interest and inquiry with a high level of scrutiny being given to the last several economic development proposals from both the public and the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Council considers economic development proposals in a variety of forms, including but not limited to, Chapter 380 agreements, master development agreements, city contracts and development fee waivers; and

WHEREAS, commonalities have emerged during discussions of these types of proposals, and several issues have emerged from Council and community conversations yielding similar amendments and last minute negotiations to multiple economic development proposals in the last several months; and

WHEREAS, these amendments and concerns include, but are not limited to: wage floors, worker safety and training, domestic partner benefits, demonstration of need for an incentive, employee health care benefits, consideration of hard to hire employees, provision of community space, small business incentives, and fee waivers; and

WHEREAS, discussing the same or similar amendments to each economic development proposal creates an undue burden on all involved parties, and creating a uniform framework that incorporates these community values and possibly others would provide a more transparent process; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that community values such as those indicated in the Comprehensive Plan and concerns are represented in these deliberations, a public stakeholder process should be created so that Council can make the necessary changes to the City's economic development incentive process in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan to avoid piecemeal amendments and last minute negotiations; and

WHEREAS, in economic development negotiations companies have the right to have proprietary information not immediately open to the public. We will respect those laws in the process of negotiations; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The Council Special Committee on Economic Incentives is created with the following conditions:

- The makeup of the committee will be determined on June 7, 2012.
- The Special Committee will be automatically dissolved upon completion of the committee's work or October 1, 2012, whichever is sooner.
- The Special Committee will hold a minimum of one public meeting per month from the date of creation until its dissolution.
- The Special Committee will be subject to applicable provisions of the Open Meetings Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Special Committee should compile findings and report to Council on or before October 1, 2012, on the issues described in this Resolution, and other information necessary to provide a full report to the City Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

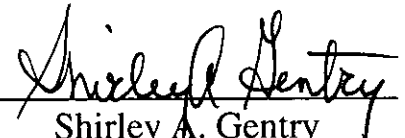
The City Manager is directed to provide the staff resources necessary for the Special Committee to expeditiously complete its work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Special Committee will consult with other governmental jurisdictions which offer economic development proposals to consider their input and discuss coordination of policies.

ADOPTED: May 24, 2012

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk