

RESOLUTION NO. 20120823-068

WHEREAS, the City of Austin owns, operates, and manages five cemeteries: Austin Memorial Park, Evergreen/Highland Park Cemetery, Oakwood Cemetery, Oakwood Annex, and Plummers Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, cemetery operations and maintenance entails a wide-range of responsibilities from tree maintenance and landscaping to internment, and these tasks demand diverse skills and expertise; and

WHEREAS, stakeholders and City Auditor reports including the most recent Audit Report AU12120 have highlighted the need for additional resources to ensure higher levels of care for cemetery grounds and gravesites, the preservation of historic gravesites, and the safety of cemetery visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department currently bears the responsibility for cemetery maintenance and operations but it does not have adequate staff resources to perform all required tasks; and

WHEREAS, some city departments engage in related work on a daily basis and could be enlisted in the effort to provide higher levels of care and stewardship of Austin's public cemeteries; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

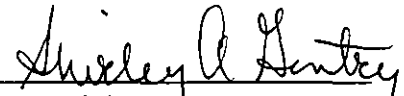
The City Manager is directed to:

1. Explore the feasibility of reassigning some or all of the operations, maintenance, and management responsibilities to Public Works and/or other departments for the City of Austin's cemeteries.

2. Explore whether any operations currently under the responsibility of the City could be affordably provided through public/private partnerships with local funeral homes.
3. Determine the fiscal impact of reassigning cemetery responsibilities and calculate estimates of required budget adjustments.
4. Provide a report to the City Council Audit and Finance Committee at its September 26, 2012, meeting.

ADOPTED: August 23, 2012

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk