MEMORANDUM

TO: Austin City Council

FROM: Randy Pomikahl, Chair, Electric Board

DATE: March 6, 2013

SUBJECT: Board Recommendation to City Council – Registration of Electrical Subcontractors

Per the direction of the Electric Board at their January 16, 2013 and March 6, 2013 meeting, the Board encourages the City Council of the City of Austin to consider this recommendation to clarify the supervision and contractor registration requirements for electrical installations set forth in Article 4 Chapter 25-12 of the Austin City Code that regulates the Electric Code.

Whereas, the City of Austin Electric Board is a technical board and knowledgeable of the electrical industry, and electrical codes and standards is essential for the members to evaluate matters relating to the electrical industry and other issues; and

Whereas, in November 2012 the Electric Board created a Work Group comprised of three board members, city staff, and stakeholders focused on creating code language for Austin to ensure life safety and create consistency, accountability, and compliance with the City Electrical Code amendments to the National Electrical Code;

Whereas, the Electric Board recommends that the City Council adopt the draft code revisions which will improve the quality and safety of electrical installation standards in Austin, as well as ensure that persons and businesses performing electrical work in Austin will be held to the same standard as trained and licensed electricians;

Due to the health and safety issues for the community, the goal of this language is to create accountability and strengthen the offenses section of the Electric Code. Austin's currently adopted Electric Code requires electrical contractors to be licensed and registered with the City in order to perform electrical work.

The new language will impact performing electrical work in Austin, and require contractor registration with the City Permit Center. The language will also impact the Building Inspections Division of Planning and Development Review Department who will enforce compliance. Due to the increase in workload, the Board also requests that the City Council support the addition of one FTE for this important change.

Randy Pomikahl
Electric Board Chair

Dan L. McNabb, Deputy Building Official
Manager, Building Inspections
Electric Board Liaison