

Closed Caption Log, Council Meeting, 04/12/12

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>> You told you what you demand

of us.

Mainly, do what is right, walk humbly with you.

We ask the deliberations in this room be taken with an eye to what is right, always with loving kindness and humility.

Let it be your will and let us say amen.

please be seated.

Yesterday, all the council members and myself attended the funeral of the officer that was slain.

As did the senior manager and his staff.

The tens of thousands of citizens that also attended and the thousands more who lined the room in the procession honored his sacrifice that outpouring of grief and respect for him and all the public safety officers was moving.

I will simply say officer pedrone rest in peace.

Now I will ask us all to observe a moment of silence.

[Moment of silence]

>>mayor leffingwell: thank you.

A quorum is present.

I will call this meeting of austin city council to order on thursday, april 12, 2012, at

[10:08:00]

10:10 a.m.

We're meeting in the austin city council chambers in austin, texas.

I will begin with changes and corrections to today's agenda.

Item number two, add the phrase "recommended we the water and "
on item number 19, delete the word "director" and add instead "
on?

S 21 and 22, add as a cosponsor, mayor pro tem sheryl cole.

And item 24 add as a cosponsor, council member, mike martinez.

And on item 25, make the following typographical correction.

Delete the last "7" in the ordinance number.

Our time certain items for 30 a briefing on the re-entry roundtable on annual update.

12 Noon, general citizens , 30, live music and proclamations.

The musician for today is charlie faye.

The consent agenda is item numbers 1-28.

And I would note that item number 17, where I usually read the appointments and waivers to boards and commissions, there are none today.

Following items have been pulled off the consent agenda.

Item 20 is pulled by councilmember spelman.

Item 21 and 22, two related items are pulled by kathie tovo.

[10:10:03]

24 Is pulled by council member morrison.

There are no items pulled off consent agenda for speakers.

So that is the consent agenda.

I will entertain a motion for approval.

Councilmember spelman moves approval.

Seconded by mayor pro tem.

Passes on a vote of 7-0.

Now we will go to item 20, pulled by councilmember spelman.

There are no speakers.

I understand the law department has a short presentation on this for us.

>>Mayor leffingwell: ok.

>> Binna romero.

Item 20 is the first proposed amendment for the november election.

This charter amendment affects four offices.

City clerk, city attorney, city auditor and counsel.

The amendment makes the hiring structure more like that of the municipal court clerk.

If this amendment passes, the director of each of the three departments and each council member will have the ability to hire, release, manage all who work for them.

Also if this charter amendment passes, council will need to come back in the fall and pass ordinances, detailing how this change will be implemented, similar to the ordinance in place for the municipal clerk's office.

I would like to briefly mention what the ordinance did not do.

It does not formally call the november election nor does it establish the item in which it will appear on the ballot.

Ordinances for that will be brought to you at a later time.

Council has a few options, one, give staff direction on the item but postpone it so council can vote on it after we called the election or go ahead and give

[10:12:01]

staff direction and pass the item.

Law department division director megan riley is here to answer any questions you might have about how it will affect the personnel process and assistant city attorney john steiner is here to answer any drafting questions you my have.

With that, councilmember spelman.

if you would talk to us about how that will affect the hiring process for council members and staff.

>> What this does with respect to the council, as a board, it creates the authority for individual council offices to hire the staff that the council member may need, as would be established by ordinance to carry out the responsibility of the council of the body.

it doesn't change the number of staff members, we have, the number of staff people or anything like that?

>> Does not place a limitation or direct that.

It could be done in an ordinance.

>>Spelman: separate ordinance?

>> Correct.

the council member is responsible for appointing their own staff, correct?

>> It provides the authority to do so.

You could specify that in an ordinance.

It doesn't place a limitation on who that manager would be.

you said the clerk, auditor, city attorney.

Am I right?

>> Correct.

more or less the same rules apply there.

The clerk already appoints -- already reports to the city council as does the auditor.

Would this cause the city attorney to report directly to the city council?

>> This particular provision does not address the city attorney.

It clarifies the appointment authority of the city attorney over any individualized staff the city attorney may have.

>>Spelman: fair enough.

What would it do with the staff for the city auditor or state

[10:14:01]

attorney?

>> It provides the authority for the council appointees to hire and manage their staff.

>>Spelman: ok.

Thank you very much.

first of all, the resolution for the council to appoint the city attorney, that was passed by resolution about a year ago.

So that is already included.

Just a quick question, managing council staffs -- same question, I guess, applies to the other offices, clerk, attorney, auditor.

guidelines with respect to that?

Are there any that apply?

Would there be any that apply?

>> What this particular charter provision does is provide broad authority to appoint or hire the staff -- staffs of the council appointees and council offices, but provides council as a body the flexibility to create an framework by ordinance mest so for exampl -- so for example, council staff members would not be established by h.r.

For a certain salary bracket.

>> I think you are asking if they would be applied to the current workforce policies.

The answer to that is no.

The ballot initiative provides flexibility, the language provides flexibility for council and appointees to establish a framework, even adopt the current framework through an ordinance or other mechanism.

so make no mistake I'm in favor of this.

In fact, I originally posed it.

I realize there are other things that need to be worked out if

[10:16:00]

and when the amendment is approved by the voters.

>> That's correct.

>>Mayor leffingwell: ok.

Councilmember spelman.

if we adopt this ordinance and all three readings today, it would not necessarily be put on the ballot.

Putting it on the ballot, determining ballot order would take place at the time when we move the ballot ordinance; is that correct?

>> I will defer to sabina on that.

you were at the podium, thought it might be easier.

>> That is correct.

mayor I move approval on all three readings.

seconded by councilmember tovo.

Passes on vote 7-0.

Take us to item 21 and 22.

These two items are group together.

They were pulled by councilmember tovo.

We have several citizens signed up to speak.

Councilmember, if you would like to hear from them first?

First speaker is tom wall.

Tom wall.

>> Mayor?

>>Mayor leffingwell: Councilmember riley.

I would like -- it is close.

it might be good to provide context to what is on the table here.

Those both relate to pedicabs, those are items being put in place in overhaul of the regulations in place to govern pedicabs.

It has been 20 years since we revisited our pedicab ordinance.

20 Years ago, we had about a

[10:18:00]

dossen pedicabs on the street, now 341 and they're soon to be over 400.

So there has been a lot of interest in taking a look at the rules, making sure they're appropriate.

And deal adequately with safety considerations to ensure that pedicabs remain a convenient and safe travel option for every.

Pedicabs are a great part of the austin environment, fun and friendly way to get around.

We want to make sure they operate effectively.

We have worked with staff, pedicab owners, operators, for other stakeholders for months on this set of regulations.

If I could real briefly describe what these two are and how they fit into it.

First one, item 21 is an ordinance that contains new regulations, deals with things like defining a pedicab.

Putting basic safety measures in place, requiring insurance, installing basic rules of how they operate on the road.

There is also on item 22 a resolution directing the city manager to create a system of street parkers to define where pedicabs can stage on the street.

Basically, going to generally be areas between crosswalks and the first parking space back.

A couple of other things put in place contemporaneously, one is a map that is worked out with stakeholders to define pedicab stands.

Seven pedicab stands downtown.

Another is a set of rules for the austin police department that address how pedicabs will deal with barricaded areas.

Pedicabs have a lot of activity around the sixth street area which is often barricaded on

[10:20:00]

weekends.

There is confusion in the past as to how pedicabs should interact with the barricades.

There is a lot of misunderstanding before.

Now we have a lot of dialogue to pick out how it will work.

There is an elaborate set of agreement between the pedicabers and can be what is expected of them in the barricaded areas, especially.

It is comprehensive idea to go into place.

We will have a moratorium on the number of pedicab permits for six months.

During that time, we will allow the regulations to take place and see where we go from there.

I will say, long-term, there has been discussion about the issue of tricycles versus trailers, some people may not have noticed the difference.

There are tricycles, built to carry passengers.

The trailers, carry passengers but hooked on to regular bicycles.

mundi consultant engaged last year.

A number of jurisdictions banned trailers, there has been discussion about that.

There is interest in doing that here on the part of at least some owners and operators.

We have not reached an agreement on that.

So we will put the -- the idea is to put the rules into place now.

Let them take effect for six months, come back, revisit that issue.

In the meantime, I would note one thing.

We do not expect the issue any permits for new trailers during that time.

If a trailer were to become irreparably damaged in the next six months, it needs to be replaced with a tricycle, not a

[10:22:03]

trailer.

Not sure when it will be phased out, something to be discussed.

But the moratorium will expire in six months.

I wanted to provide that by way of context.

just barely got here in time, tom.

Go ahead.

>> Tom wall, the league of executive director of bicycling motors.

I worked at a pedicab for heart of texas and easy rider pedicab.

I have been working with this ordinance with the pedicab, city staff and others for the last couple of months.

There has been a lot of good thought put into it.

It is an important step toward getting everyone on the same page about how pedicabs operate in austin.

I think what we have here is a great product of that.

I want to just briefly mention my perspective and my role in this as a bike advocate is to focus on what the pedicab community came to consensus on.

That covers about 95% of the ordinance.

The 5% it doesn't cover is the discussion about trikes versus trailers, and the issue of whether there should be a cap on the number or not.

That, I don't think that we can come to a consensus on the latter issues, the trike versus trailer or other cap.

Even though it is not perfect, there are a lot of regulations regarding how pedicabs can stage, how they pick up passengers, how they travel around the streets.

With that, we have come a long way toward addressing all the concerns, even if it is not perfect.

So yeah, I guess I wanted to speak again, express my support

[10:24:00]

for the ordinance.

I think disregarding the 5% of the controversial issues, you know, others might speak about it differently, but I would say the six-month moratorium is a good way to address this so we can get most of the issues right now and then wait six months or over the next six months resolve the issues with controversy.

Thanks for the time.

If you have questions let me know.

>> Councilmember spelman.

do you have a dog in the hunt for trike versus trailer.

>> I work with a company that has primarily trailers and a company with just trikes.

I pedicabed during south by southwest, I don't know when if ever I will pedicab again.

I don't think I do have a dog in the hunt in that regard.

>>Spelman: fair enough.

>>Mayor leffingwell: Councilmember tovo.

can you address the idea about complication.

In I past I heard that people feel that relying on tips is not best for the consumer.

I wonder if your group had taken that up?

>> Um, I'm hoping others can answer that question as well.

I mean, my thought -- this is again, something that doesn't really involve bike regulations so much.

It is about the tipping and for-hire aspects.

We didn't get very involved with it.

Obviously I have been very much with the discussions.

My preference is that all of those options be available, but you know when you go up to a particular pedicab operator, they can have a number of options, they can say they accept tips for rides or negotiate it ahead of time or a

[10:26:01]

fixed per block amount.

My thought is that, that could be clear to the customer what they're getting into.

That would help solve some of the problems.

I don't know how widespread the problems are.

I heard problems of people getting on the pedicab, being told it is one thing and when done, it is another thing.

That problem happens with motorized taxis as well.

I don't know -- I will leave it at that.

>>Tovo: t.

I have a question.

Since you have been involved with trikes.

The transitioning from trikes from trailers, is safety?

>> That is the stated concern.

But it is definitely an open debate.

Hopefully there will be speakers up here to speak more about that, what people that own trailer companies.

But there is a good deal of arguments on both sides.

They are compelling arguments, i will put it that way.

compelling arguments that the tricycle is safer and the argument for phase-in is economic, I suppose?

>> You mean if we phase-out trailers, the phase out period is what you mean?

>>Mayor leffingwell: yes.

>> If you phase out trailers, there needs to be consideration for those that put capital investment into the trailers.

>>Mayor leffingwell: thank you.

All right.

One more speaker, josh forester.

You have three minutes.

[10:28:01]

>> I'm josh forester, I own a pedicab in austin.

We use all trailers.

I'm for the ordinance.

One item to consider or clarify modification on.

That is item 8, limits new cabs being registered in the nextix month period.

The way our business works, city registers are pedicabs for three months.

Unlike traditional taxis or other transportation, we're seasonal.

We may not operate during the winter period.

We may bring more cabs into use for events like south by southwest, we may reserve those for later in the fleet.

If I have a fleet of 20, 30, 40 cabs and I only need 15 or 20 during this period.

If you limit that, I could not operate, you cut our fleet in half, we don't have the ability to flex in and out with south by southwest, atl or other periods of time allow us to flex in and out of the fleet.

I would like to clarify or find a way for the existing companies to prove to you their current fleet count or grandfather in their current fleets, qui allow those to move in and out during the period.

That is my main concern with the ordinance.

>>Mayor leffingwell: thank you.

Councilmember riley.

I want to make sure i understand the concern.

You have pedicabs that are not permitted?

>> We have cabs now that we do not register with the city?

The registration is quarterly.

For example, during the winter period, I may not run any pedicabs at all.

[10:30:00]

Or I may run limit non-pedicabs.

When the spring comes, I may only need half of those.

During south by southwest, I may engage the entire fleet and activate everything because there is bigger demand for that business, and then that half is housed again.

So, I own a fleet of x.

If you limit it now and tomorrow I can no longer register.

When acl comes when I would just run the during -- cabs during that festival, I could be stopped because I can't run just during the period.

many folks felt we had seen a new peak in the pedicabs and some felt we should hold it there now.

Are you saying that since south by southwest, you have acquired additional pedicabs?

>> No, I'm saying for example.

We have a fleet of 20 cabs now.

I may have engaged 15 or 20 of the cabs during south by southwest.

When the registrations expire, i may not choose to renew 10 of those.

I have them now, they're in my fleet in storage.

I will reengage them during acl or bring them back in when needed.

This ordinance will force me to register everything I have, push it to the street, have it active in the fleet when I don't need it so I can have them registered.

That is my concern, if there is a way to give the current companies with an operating license a way to prove the current fleet stock and have

[10:32:00]

those grandfathered in so we can bring them in and out.

That is our business model.

We don't run cabs throughout the year consistently.

The clarification for me would be is there a way to grandfather in the existing companies with a certain amount of stock, register those with the city and we only need to bring those in and out of service.

stock that you currently own, were permitted for south by southwest, and the concern is once those expire then you won't be able to renew them?

Thank you.

Mayor, if I could, ask transportation staff if they have known the ones with permitting issues.

I would like to know if you heard the concern if you can speak to it.

>> Roberts fullerton.

Outside counsel can also speak to this.

We speak to companies, it is a choice to keep the pedicabs in business for a full year.

The licenses are for a full year.

A company can delicense, relicense cabs quarterly, because we collect payments quarterly.

What you are hearing is a company for their business model, during peak season register more pedicabs, when the peak season is off deregister those cabs.

We looked at that, clearly a business model that the company chooses to use.

I don't know if a six-month moratorium affects that.

One choice obviously is to

[10:34:00]

maintain the license and still not use the cabs, like other [inaudible] thanks.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Councilmember Tovo.

I have questions for Councilmember Riley and the transportation staff.

I will start Councilmember Riley with you.

I noticed a few of the speakers spoke 15 month stakeholder process.

I appreciate the work you did on it.

It sounds considerable.

I wonder if you could tell us who the stakeholders were.

>> Owners, operators, MPD played an important part since they deal with pedicabs.

Transportation staff at the table throughout the process.

Those were the principal stakeholders.

>> Did you reach out to the taxi driver association or the local operators?

I say this because when we address the issues we address in the last six months, I heard concerns from pedicabs from taxicab drivers related to safety, interactions, also requests that as the city moves forward in providing maps and way finding, I heard that those be integrated.

So pedicab stands and taxi stands and the maps that are provided to consumers are really well integrated.

I'm not sure that was able to happen if those voices aren't in the conversation.

>> There were a number of discussions at the early transportation commission.

Those are publicly posted in meetings.

I'm not sure, beyond that, that we had stakeholder meetings specifically engaging both taxicabs and pedicabs.

[10:36:01]

But I would defer to transportation staff if there were any conversations that I wasn't a party to.

>> I will just comment that when we reached out to cabdrivers, it was my impression they weren't aware this was coming forward.

I believe, based on the information I got back.

The main present happened two years ago.

That doesn't provide a lot of opportunity to let people know about issues if they haven't been part of the stakeholder process.

>> Gordon durham with the transportation department.

As we were engaging with the taxi companies and taxi drivers, we held a series of meetings, one of those we specifically invited the pedicab drivers to talk about common interest.

It has been a while ago.

That discussion was reflected in some of the taxicab discussions we had over the last year with you.

I don't know if there has been a specific discussion with the taxicab drivers or owners about the pedicab ordinance.

The owners had specific requests reeled to the pedicabs including a cap on the number of them.

That has all been a discussion that I guess you could say is ongoing.

>> At this point it has been ongoing with the pedicab drivers and companies.

It sounds like that conversation has primarily included those parties?

>> There has been a separate process because there were technical details related to the pedicab industry that needed to be defined and cleaned up.

That is the primary focus of the ordinance changes before you right now.

[10:38:02]

can you address the questions I had about the maps?

That was a good question about the electric vehicle operators as well as cabdrivers as well.

We want a well-integrated system of transportation.

To what extent has that factored into item 21, the maps?

>> I don't know if it -- we have it is good business sense for us to work with the taxi companies, the electronic meter erators, pedicabs to do a map downtown, with the possibly downtown austin association and a number of other parties, the chamber of commerce to develop maps and better ways to communicate with people.

All the transportation options downtown.

Metro would be a big part of that also.

We have a lot of new taxi stands, pedicab stands are being discussed.

The signage, part of the way finding discussion.

I can see in the future more static signage and applications available, electronic devices that would help people get to understand their transportation options and how to utilize those.

yeah, we have certainly talked about all those things, I'm glad they're contemplated.

I guess since we're being asked to approve a resolution today that is for safe and successful staging for reads -- rides of pedicabs, and creating stands, i want to know that it is going to be integrated into the tabby cabs -- [inaudible, multiple people speaking] to make sure it is well

[10:40:00]

integrated into the other forms of transportation.

>> That is something we can continue to work on as we work on better way finding for downtown.

>>Tovo: good.

I think that is an important goal that those work well TOGETHER SO WE USE LACBU's AND Pedicabs to get people to be transported to airport or longer distances.

Many of the people that come down to talk that there are roles that each method of transportation serves particular functions and not always overlapping.

If they work together with signage, stands, and careful placement, there could be benefit.

I have more questions, councilmember riley has something to say on this?

katie mattera riley.

we need to make sure all the elements work well together.

The designated pedicab stands are indicated in a map to be adopted administratively.

That is not necessarily within a code amendment or resolution we're adopting today.

If there is continued interest in having further dialogue about the locate of the pedicab stands, that could certainly occur.

We could make the staff have the flexibility to make adjustments to the location of the pedicab stands.

The resolution is a more general matter that speaks to where pedicabs can generally -- generally where pedicabs can stage, at places other than the designated pedicab stand.

That is a particular issue that is related state law in regards to within 20 feet of a cross walk.

That resolution doesn't directly

[10:42:00]

address the location of the pedicab stands.

what does it address directly.

>>Mayor leffingwell: Councilmember could you direct your questions to staff rather than other council members?

>>Tovo: sure.

Could you it will us what exactly is the resolution before us today?

It is creating street markings?

..

It is basically a resolution directing staff to create street markers are pedicab staging areas?

>> Yes, ma'am, as I understand it, it directs us to do that with simple law and the capability we have.

That is the way I read it from council.

Yes, ma'am.

what relationship does it have to mapping?

Related to the ongoing mapping project?

>> Right.

durham was trying to say is where we establish permanent locations in the future, that we would want to provide that in terms of way-finding information.

Whether it be on signage or maps that our partners of the d.a.a.

Or chamber might create.

I think he was trying to say that is the good business principles we attempt to do regardless if we have council direct to do it or not.

If you would like us, through a direction through council, to make sure we're including those in the maps, that is certainly acceptable to us.

Just know that is something that we are trying to do as part of our normal business operations anyway.

in the last be it resolved sentence, it says they should be implemented in the downtown streets and intersections within 90 days.

[10:44:02]

I guess, I think it is important that it be presented to the pedicab stakeholder group, but i suggest it is also important that it be presented to the urban transportation commission so it can get input from the other players in this field.

Again, if they are on the streets every day, they may see opportunities for adjustments or better integration with the pedicab industry.

And those may --

>> we're certainly happy to do that councilmember.

With regards to the specific signage and specific markings, we're directed by state law with some limitations as to the type.

This will certainly give the various stakeholders the opportunity to maximize or comment on the maximizing and friendliness and visibility of the markings.

We're happy to do that.

>>Tovo: that is great.

My intent here -- I think it is critical, as you described, to work with the pedicab stakeholders that they're operating within a system that includes other players.

It seems appropriate to bring the other players in to craft a solution that works best for everybody.

>> The best way to communicate with all the stakeholders is meeting, and we can do that.

I have more specific questions about the pedicabs.

So I understand from the q&a that there are 341 permitted pedicabs in austin.

My colleague, councilmember riley said there are soon to be more than 400.

I wonder if you can explain that?

>> We have recently, prior to today, my understanding is we have recently received a request for 60 permits from a new or existing authority.

That is certainly within their purview under the current law to request those.

[10:46:00]

We're evaluating those under the current evaluation proposal.

I think what is key and what we have heard today is that doesn't mean all 300 or 400 permits are in active use on a daily basis.

I think that is one of the things we learned here today is there is at least one company that flexes in cat, that is a decision companies make.

>> They are licensed for a year but pay for that quarterly.

I --

>> they're modifying their operating license.

Can you register cabs quarterly with the thought that you are buying it for a year, but they can register them and deregister them after a quarter, under the current system.

is that typical in any of the other vehicles for hire in that they can register them and deregister them and register them again?

It would seem to be cumbersome for the staff to manage that and not cost-effective for the city.

>> It is not common for other vehicles for hire because they have further regulations on them, maximizing the number of permits.

There is demand for the maximum number to be shifted to other companies.

Companies tend not to release those permits.

>> But because there is no cap here --

>> exactly.

There is no liability for not keeping those permits.

can you give me some sense of what other cities do for pedicab permits.

Do they typically have a maximum number or maximum number of franchises?

As I have learned in my time here, you know, there are a fair number of regulations with regard to the taxicab industry.

We had long discussions about at least, you know, some here, some off out of the council chamber

[10:48:01]

of the l.l.c.b.

They're quite heavily regulated.

I'm wondering why --

>> uh-huh.

Councilmember I can answer that question.

First of all, what other cities do, we know new york and new orleans limit the total number of pedicabs, similar to other vehicles for hire.

Yet many other cities do not limit the total number, similar to what we do.

>>Tovo: I'm sorry to interrupt.

Some do, some don't?

>> Yes.

Absolutely.

We viewed the mark as somewhat different.

Pedicabs through the stakeholder meetings have talked about the short distances they're providing.

Short hops.

We learn from the stakeholder meetings, true taxi drivers they often have agreements from pedicabs to shuttle patrons to their taxis, which is beneficial in terms of mobility.

We viewed them as different models.

The regulations have grown-up separately on both markets.

So I think what you see here is a niche market in terms of the pedicabs and low speed electric vehicles that is being met by a different operating concept.

except we did apply maximum number -- pretty low maximum numbers to the lsev.

>> You are right, different.

I wonder if you can tell me about the rationale with regard to compensation.

That is an issue I heard concerns about.

wall brought up a good point.

I don't know what extent that is a concern, but a different model than any other vehicles for the

[10:50:07]

lsev.

It was better to have an agreed upon amount in advance, not tip-based and probably better for the drivers as well.

I don't know that for certain.

>> Right, again, with the pedicab, difficult to mount a meter.

Technology is difficult if you want to go to the extreme with taxis.

In our view, the cities that also have pedicabs range whether it is a set amount of blocks, to tips negotiated in advance.

That is one area they think there was a lot of discussions on all sides.

I think there was a variety of opinions on how best to move forward.

What we heard is through that set of discussions is that the current system fit the needs of many of the operators and stakeholders we talked to.

It is certainly an area they think continued discussion needs to occur.

That is what is contemplated.

I understand the issue about the meters.

I know the answer I got back talks about pedicabs don't have fuel costs.

That is all obvious.

OUR LSEVs DON'T HAVE METERS AS Well.

But they are obligated to have a set amount before -- they are not allowed to work on tips.

So is there something different about a pedicab that would make that tip system work better than -- we are acquiring it in one short term -- short-distance mode in one and not another.

Walk me through the rationale.

>> Pedicabs tend to serve fewer numbers of people.

The low speed electric vehicle

[10:52:00]

model that we were analyzing and trying to respond tonight.

It might be multiple people, might not be the same part pep you are not negotiating one rate with one party and not another.

That is not to say it can't happen with as few as two or three people.

But the input from the steak -- stakeholders and others were not willing to tackle yet.

the stakeholders were riders issue not necessarily drivers.

>> That is correct.

at the risk of getting in trouble again, I will ask councilmember riley, if he can nod, did you work with any customers about what system worked better for them.

I can't say that our stakeholder process included a designated customer representative.

I would suggest that be something the urban transportation commission continue to look at.

It is an inconsistency in how we treat other vehicles for hire.

It seems to me it would minimize for customers if they knew what to expect in terms of payment.

>> Yes.

again, I think having a public discussion about it at u.t.c. would be helpful.

And, do you have -- can you provide us with some sense of safety issues with regard to pedicabs?

In austin or nationally?

Again, I am concerned about just -- about the number on the road at one time and whether that has created any safety issues, less than the individual.

I think you have done good work in the ordinance in terms of

[10:54:02]

addressing safety issues for the individual cabs.

If there are more on the roads working at once?

I just want to ensure that they are able to operate safely.

>> Carlton was reminding me, because of the way -- if an incident does occur with the pedicab, unfortunately sometimes they may be logged as a bike accident versus a pedicab or a vehicle for hire.

So it is difficult to tell you what our history has been with regards to safety.

When we are evaluating pedicabs or evaluating electric low speed vehicles and comparing them to motorized cousins above or bicycle cousins below.

The bicycles aren't often the people in the intersection, but the low-speed electric vehicle.

Because the torque could be the first vehicle to an intersection.

That raised from an engineering and safety perspective a concern as to specific safety equipment.

With the bicycle life, the momentum that leads the vehicle out.

The intersection is often -- the first vehicle to be at greatest risk.

Also because pedicabs often operate in an event operation, there is more visibility for pedestrians and bicycles operating in that situation, whether it is sixth street at night with a closure, activities downtown or during the special event.

And we often have been using the bike lanes or sides of the roads.

So our perception is the safety risk is manageable within the saint of what they are doing.

it is the safety of the

[10:56:01]

pedestrian walking by rather than going in and out of the lanes?

That is an ongoing area of oversight?

>> Yes, ma'am, an ongoing safety issue for all bicycle and pedestrian and auto users on the transportation network.

As an earlier speaker talked about, the discussion about trikes versus trailers is an ongoing discussion.

Certainly, the phase out, i think, concept addresses both the immediate and economic impact of trikes.

Not a study on crash worthiness or any other.

Certainly, the ability to make sure that a trailer and bicycle and user are all consistently licensed, the same person, it is easier when you have a single unit trailer and bike combined as a trike.

did approve or recommend that banning trailer-type pedicabs, correct?

>> Could you repeat that?

>>Tovo: I asked if the u.t.c.

Made recommendations in the past regarding pedicabs, they had recommended banning trailer types?

>> Yes, that is correct.

Yes, they review this ordinance.

The one thing that they did do is as part of the overall discussion on the markings, they discussed it, but they did not propose an action on the markings elements of the ordinance.

They had a discussion about it.

I would sa concurrence.

thank you, that is my last question for you.

had some recommendations, expressly use

[10:58:00]

motorized pedicabs, what is the trajectory?

Are we going to be asked to accept it on first reading or recommend it be adopted and in the next six months that the other issues be nsider?

>> My understanding is that they recommended approval of the dinance with ongoing discsions to finish out these issues.

>>Tovo: I see.

The three, a, b, c, issues were for the next six months?

>> Yes, ma'am.

>>Tovo: ok.

>>Mayor leffingwell: Councilmember riley.

there was one other recommended addressing, fares.

You have on the dais here before you a yellow copy that reflects some exchanges.

It reflects the input of the transportation commission.

To be clear on what it says in terms of fares, I will read the paragraph because it is only two sentences.

It provides that an application for an operating authority must describe the fair structure or structures which must be posted in the pedicab in a manner approved by the department.

Fair rates may be fixed, fare per passenger or for tips only and must be prior to service being rendered.

That is key point, there must be an agreement before service is provided.

So we hopefully don't get into disagreements at the end of the trip.

So this resolution before us now reflects the input from the need to clarify that point.

>>Mayor leffingwell: Councilmember morrison.

I need clarification on a topic discussed a minute ago.

Our decision today will give staff administrative authority to decide on the pedicab stand.

And the mobility options downtown are integrated, we are talking about taxi stands and identifying different locations.

I think with that, in fact, in one of our resolutions to address that.

>> Yes, ma'am.

>> So can you help me understand how the time line of those two processes line up and how it will ensure that -- I guess i don't understand how we can do those in silos?

>> Right, it is an issue of timing.

The additional taxi stands that were directed by council and already established and currently in use; is that correct?

Yes.

So those are in place.

As we start to locate pedicab stations we will take that into account to make sure that is coordinated.

And I'm reminded that the first seven pedicab stands will be -- the first seven?

April 22, will be in place by then.

thanks for the clarification.

I appreciate your work on the safety issues.

I spent a lot of time as a pedestrian during south by.

The safety issue on the street were bike-ped interactions of the four accidents that almost happened that I saw or was part of, two were with pedicabs involving pedicabs and large numbers of pedestrians at crosswalks, two were with a bicycle or group of bicycles.

I think that is something that probably with education and safer operations will be important.

Thank you.

council we considered 21 and 22 together, we'll vote separately, since 21 is an ordinance and 22 is a resolution for criteria of passage.

First we'll entertain a motion on item 21.

Councilmember riley moves an approval on all three readings, second by councilmember spelman.

Any questions?

Councilmember tovo.

as the process considers, other justments for comp -- adjustments for compensation be on the list and that happened within a broader array of stakeholders and the urban transportation commission and other safety issues we discussed.

further discussion?

Entertain a motion on item 22.

Councilmember riley moves approval.

Discussion, councilmember tovo?

I would like to make a friendly amendment, add the pedicab group and transportation commi.

that is a friendly amendment.

Further discussion?

Passes on vote of 7-0.

I would like to get our briefing done this morning.

Councilmember morrison you pulled item 24?

Do you anticipate a long discussion on that?

We'll take up item 24.

There are no speakers on this item.

>>Morrison: thank you, mayor.

Item 24, I will pass out language for an amendment that i am going to propose.

Item 24 is an item on amphitheaters, in general for commercial zoning districts, amphitheaters are a conditional use.

What the resolution is doing is asking staff to take a look at making those kinds of structures conditional uses in -- if they happen to be in civic or residential zoning districts.

And one of the things that came up in our discussions is that when you're designing an amphitheater, there are a lot of things that you can do that will allow mitigation of sound, because in the end, you will probably be looking for an outdoor amplified sound permit.

So what we wanted to do was add language that would allow as much as possible work, with the music department, basically the music office, to take a look at the design and do as much as you might say preclearance as is possible.

Although, in the end, everybody needs to realize, of course, that you can't measure the sound on the ground until the structure itself.

I wanted to add a be it resolved because of approval of noncommercial venues would provide a means to address the presentation of performance space and other sound mitigation methods typically addressed during the permitting process under chapter 9-2, noise and amplified sounds, the city manager should also present options for council consideration to engage the music office earlier to simplify and increased predictability of the permitting process.

I make a motion that we add that "be it resolved" to the motion.

first and sectioned.

Discussion?

Councilmember spelman.

this looks like an excellent addition to the resolution.

A couple of stylistic suggestions, mostly for purposes of improving clarity.

This will not replace the permit, it will be added to?

>>Morrison: effectively.

we should probably "

the approval comes at the i understand of the process, we might say because of consideration of a conditional use site plan for noncommercial ven use would provide, instead of a means, we might say an opportunity for the performance base.

The first time I read it, i think I wasn't sure what was going on.

We have a chance to address a bunch of stuff early in the process, rather than late.

And this is actually a question rather than a suggested change.

But it might lead to a suggested change.

At what point is the music office -- what is the earliest point the music process can engage in issues like how far the speakers are from a point like that?

>> If we can ask staff to answer that question, we can get right to the point.

that would be the way to do it.

>>Spelman: ok.

>> Brett Lloyd, assistant city attorney.

I think right now, under the sound code, when somebody comes in to obtain an amplified sound permit and there are several categories of those established in the ordinance, the music office is engaged.

I hear the intent of councilmember morrison's addition to be if somebody gets an amphitheater built and using the conditional use permit this calls for, the music office be engaged earlier before the applicant is necessarily ready to come in, obtain an amplified sound permit, but when they're designing the theater in question, that those be factored in, in an earlier stage.

I'm thinking about building an amphitheater, I have to put in a permit request.

At that point, we can engage the music office as to things like size of speakers, orientation, things like that as we walk through the initial use permitting process, is that accurate.

In theory -- is there a standard time period between when I put in a request for use permit and when we are obligated to say yes or no?

>> Yes, the guidelines set out in code.

I don't have those in front of me right now.

I'm not envisioning as we look toward crafting an ordinance, I'm not necessarily envisioning that that would change any.

There is room in the process to engage the music office.

I imagine there would have to be, given that conditional use permits can only be granted by the council and you have issues with planning with the council, we could set a standard of 30 or 60 days, given that the council has to be involved in that?

>> The land use condition can grant permits, and those are appealable to the city council.

And I think that what I hear the intent of the be it further resolved provision is to look at ways to sync up the processes to avoid redundancies and create a user-friendly process to minimize needless process.

I think there are definitely overlaps in the procedures that could be consolidated and the ordinance that staff comes forward with in response to the resolution will include recommendations on those to that end.

you have plenty of time to engage the office to have something valuable to contribute as they usually do with respect to outdoor music?

>> I believe so.

I think staff is better suited to address the issues.

If it is felt on the staff end that there is a need to factor in and build in more time, i think the proposal that comes to council will include that.

can you talk about that?

I'm not sure we need to hear more about it, can you it will us.

>> George adams, planning and development review, there is time within the existing process.

how long does it take when we are doing a review of an outdoor venue?

>> A lot of variations, somewhere in the 3-6 month range is typical.

I didn't realize it took that long.

>> Conditional use permits are usually carried forward as part of the site plan.

It is going through the entire site plan process, usually.

so at the point where lanning commission is considering additional use, there might be issues of orientation, speaker size, usual stuff?

>> Based on the discussion, that is a reasonable assumption.

>>Spelman: thank you very much.

prayer pro tem.

george, can I ask you a couple of questions?

When we talk about the permitting process being part of the site plan, I think traditionally we had issues between the neighborhoods and someone else, such as a church trying to do an amphitheater.

I want to understand how this resolution may impact that and help the stakeholders resolve the issues.

>> Well, first and foremost, it will require a public hearing at the land use commission before the permit is granted.

But I think part of the intent of what I am hearing with the additions to the resolution is that we want to engage music staff earlier in the process to hopefully address the sound issues and create -- when we engage the music office in the process, where will it go?

Will it be documented to be forwarded to the planning commission or part of --

>> I think there are a lot of details to be worked out in the development of the ordinance.

I would certainly envision that to be part of the process.

The way I understand the goal is to address the issues of concern on the front end rather than at the public hearing.

So that information, assuming that staff are able to come to a, you know, a good result on the sound issues, that that information -- regardless, that information would be provided to the land use commission.

so we are increasing our outreach procedure for the stakeholders?

Mayor, I want to ask councilmember morrison a question.

>>Mayor leffingwell: go ahead.

councilmember morrison, were you able to visit with some of the stakeholders on this issue?

And some to come resolution with the amendment?

>>Morrison: yes.

Mayor pro tem, we did talk with the representative from one noncommercial venue that is developing -- that has been through this discussion about amphitheater and worked out these issues with them.

The yellow copy that we have of the resolution specifically adds an item b at the end of what we had originally proposed, and that's a very important item to ensure that we look at existing or approved amphitheaters and make sure that they don't get caught in any constraints and restrictions for becoming nonconforming uses.

There was never any intent of doing that.

This is a forward-looking ordinance.

like a grandfather provision.

Thank you, mayor.

>>Mayor leffingwell: Councilmember morrison.

not sure it got formalized.

I want to amend my motion to adopt the near real-time editing from councilmember spelman so it would read be it further resolved and the first sentence would be because -- I have this written down for the clerk -- because consideration of a conditional use site plan for noncommercial venues would provide an opportunity to address.

If that is already with my second.

>>Mayor leffingwell: Councilmember morrison amends her ordinance as stated.

Councilmember martinez?

I believe so, I guess.

It was a long time ago.

>>Morrison: I apologize.

the amended motion is before us right now.

All in favor signify by saying aye.

Opposed, nay.

Passes on a vote of 7-0.

Now we will go to our morning briefing on the recovery roundtable.

Break break [one moment please for change in captioners] [one moment please for change in captioners] well, all those big heavy words for just a group of people that want to reduce recidivism, make our community safer by executing strategies and initiatives and systemic change that will allow people to not just have a second chance but to actually turn the page and get a fresh start.

The structure of the round table for those of you not familiar with it is the community.

That's where it begins is with the community.

We have our annual forum which I appreciate mayor pro tem's involvement last tuesday night.

The community forum, we hear from the community.

Hear from mothers who are keeping kids, sisters, daughters in del valle or a wife whose husband is coming out of the travis state jail and is having to leave public housing because she can't reunify her family because public housing won't allow him there.

So it's those types of things that barriers and issues that the community identifies to us.

When we get those, those then go to committees and the committees once again are made up of citizens, of volunteers.

They look at what the needs and barriers are and make recommendations for change to address those needs and barriers.

Those recommendations come in the form of their individual action plan that go to the planning council.

The planning council is -- i always laugh and say we don't have a -- the planning council doesn't have a dog in the hunt, we are the hunt.

And the reason is because it's a coalition.

We're not a 5013-c, we're not an agency, we're not a service provider, it's a coalition of all of those.

And so as a result it's really a unique organization that comes together to really become a catalyst for change.

And that change then becomes cost effective improvement to public safety through reduced recidivism.

That's the structure.

Once again, the main thing is it starts with the community.

Tuesday night I tried to describe how I envision the round table and that is the public, the community is the heart.

That's where it begins.

That's the nucleus.

Our committees and teams are then the organs that make things happen and make things work.

And the planning council then is the body that actually executes it.

But without the heart you have nothing.

And so once again we go back to saying the people are the round table.

In 2011 we had five targeted areas.

One was organizational growth.

We had had pretty much the same number of people and agencies represented on the planning council and thought that we needed to increase that.

And we'll talk a little more bit in a few minutes.

Policy reform.

It was the 82nd legislature and that's always a really busy time for the reentry round table.

Our evidence based practice committee was another one of our targeted areas to try to get more and more information out to the public for evidence based practices.

Well, for two reasons.

One is it makes things -- it says what really works and keeps you from spending money that on -- on things that sound good but don't work.

Just about the only way you are going to get any federal funding coming in and foundation funding because everything now is based on evidence based practice as opposed to best practices.

So we have a specific committee for that.

We have a committee of support systems, groups of individuals that are interested -- what are the strategies we need to help people with housing, employment.

All the things that happen as they come out of the system.

And finally funding opportunities what.

We kept seeing was that when the second chance act came down which is a huge amount of money and quite a few other funding streams came into effect we weren't really ready as a community to apply for that federal funding.

And so the round table decided that it was really important to be there and assist the community and the agencies, the nonprofits, the faith based organizations to apply for grants.

We have on our planning council and myself three people that actually review grants for the federal government as well as with sampson and different foundations so we felt we could help agencies in the city to apply for grants.

Key activities, just briefly, 11 community forums that we held.

We represented the round table at 102 coalition, community coalition meetings.

We created, funded or provided technical assistance to 26 reentry related reports and documents.

Provided 44 strategies for advocacy around reentry that impact persons with criminal backgrounds.

We track solicitations and dispersed information regar 19 funding and provided grant writing support for six applications related to reentry and provided 34 specialized training and/or technical assistance to local, state and national partners.

So that sounds real good and we were real busy, but what was the impact.

What did all that really come out to.

Well, remember one of our goals was organizational growth.

We increased our general membership by 89%, we increased committee membership by 50%, increased planning membership to 50% to include former members and offenders.

Under policy reform we disseminated the 2010-2011 policy agenda.

All of this was not done just within the round table.

This was done with public hearings, we have policy forums which is next the going to be next month for the third legislature.

So it starts very early in the game so that it's inclusive to the whole community and everybody specific interest.

We develop issue papers on such things as housing, employment, continuity of care so that we could use those as we advocate to the legislature when I come to you all and say we need to do such and such.

Those quite papers are done as quickly as possible after getting buy-in and consensus from all stakeholders.

Resources were leveraged and advocacy strengthened for the 82nd legislature as a result of a lot of local and statewide advocacy strategies.

Austin began the statewide reentry group where all the reentry round tables come together once a year, sometimes twice a year on legislative years to say as a unified voice we can get a lot more done in the legislature than going by ourself.

So we pass that baton to san antonio and then i believe next year it's going to be in dallas or fort worth.

So that statewide advocacy has had a lot of impact in the 82nd legislature and we anticipate it to have even greater impact in the 83rd.

We influence tdcj policy to representation on every state reentry task force work group.

They had eight different work groups on things like housing, identification, new employment, those types of things, and the round table is represented on every one of those task force work groups.

56 Legislative bills were tracked and shared with our stakeholders and then addressed accordingly.

We trained personally here in town citizens that would go down and be able to testify.

A picture is worth a thousand words, but in person telling their story is worth 10 now.

Our evidence based practice committee developed two fa Qs AND BOTH WERE Disseminated to only a thousand stakeholders.

They were telling people, the first one was what is evidence based practice, in general, had nothing to do with criminal justice, just in general.

Because criminal justice and juvenile justice falls whether you are talking about education, whether you are talking about health, no matter what, we are involved.

So we wanted all of the stakeholders whether it be aisd, whether it be the health department or health and human services, we wanted everyone to understand what is evidence based practice.

So when they write their grant, they have a better opportunity to get funding.

The second one was specific to criminal justice and what are the evidence based practices used in criminal justice.

We conducted training to over 60 professionals on the implementation of evidence based motivational interviewing and awarded ce Us.

You say what's that for?

As far as these men and women come out of prison, they are not ready to come into the community and not all of them are ready to come into the community and understand what it's going to take from them to be successful.

I can give you a prime example.

Our keynote speaker the other night shared with me that when he got out of prison, and this was thomas henderson, when he got out of prison, he didn't think about getting a job because all he could think about was if I tried to do that, the shame the humiliation, the embarrassment of having to face someone and say I'm a felon.

So motivational interviewing is really important for our caseworkers to understand and to be able to do to help these men and women really get motivated and understand yes, you can overcome the barriers whether they be tangible barriers like, you know, the box that you all have moved off the employment application or whether it be housing or whatever their barrier is, how do you teach that person how to be motivated to be able to not -- not reoffend.

We conduct training to over 40 professionals on solution focus free therapy and cognitive behavioral therapy because to turn the page you have to change.

You know, you can't be the same person that you were when you went in there or you are going to go right back into that same mold.

So our professionals are training professionals who once again got ceu's for that.

We have really lost -- because we put so much emphasis this year into housing and into the legislature, we kind of slipped and let our support systems committee get down.

They completed some really large things the year before and so everybody was kind of on burnout.

So one of the main things we wanted to do was revitalize our support system, its committee which has gone from four members to about 19.

So we develop did that this year.

Funding opportunities, we disseminated 19 specific funding opportunities to over 500 stakeholders.

Six local proposals were committed and four of those six were awarded funding.

So that's pretty good percentage and income coming in that's not having to come out of city and county pockets.

Houses was one of our major focuses with special thanks to your neighborhood housing and community affairs.

They are great partners and really appreciate them.

As a result of a lot of collaborative work with echo and neighborhood housing, the city of austin adopted the austin permanent supportive housing strategy to guide the development of 350 t.s.h. hunts.

You all created the t.s.h.

Leadership committee.

We've got an award for \$400,000 granted from h.u.d.

That we didn't have before to fund specifically 20 units of permanent supportive housing for downtown austin community.

These guys that come in and out and in and out, cost you money every time they come in and out and go through community court.

20 Units isn't enough but it's a start and it's better than what we had last year and it didn't cost you anything.

It all came from the feds.

Concept paper was committed to the bureau of justice assistance for the justice reinvestment phase 2 for 50 units of permanent supportive housing and housing options specifically for people with mental illness and criminal backgrounds were increased as a result of fair housing training that we conducted.

So that was last year.

A lot was done and it was all done by volunteers.

We only have two staff members.

Myself full time and emily rogers who is my right and left hand as well as my legs.

So that's a lot to be done.

A lot of volunteers and a lot of work and we owe them tremendous amount of appreciation and respect and gratitude.

So what's going on now?

This new year.

Organizationally we're continuing to increase our community involvement.

We're increasing the number on the planning council to now have a service provider for the first time, which is going to be Steven Caven from Good Will.

Also increasing getting another former offender, a family member on the council.

We are publishing quarterly newsletters.

We launched -- we have already launched this year our stand-alone website that's much more user friendly and a whole lot prettier than it used to be.

We have now formed a nominating committee because we're growing so fast.

We actually need to have a standing nominating committee so we formed that and we provide our -- revised our bylaws.

Under policy reform we had the 82nd legislature wrap-up.

That was a forum held last fall.

We are still involved and have been very involved with the TCJ sunset review.

Which in their own evaluation, reentry is the area they need the great improvement and because TDCJ recognized that it has opened doors for us to make systemic change.

We track local opportunities.

Support systems, the state resource fair, we are sending someone, finding new service providers to go out each month to the state fair resource fair.

That's men that are coming out within the next 30 days and trying to let them see the resources that are in the community that the city of Austin, the county and individual service providers have.

The Travis resource forum partnership.

Children of incarcerated parents project, support systems, what we're working on and we're developing a citizen doing research for citizen circles.

And a work plan so that that will be in place for an organization or the county or the city, anyone that's interested to be able to jump on that and immediately get a grant what that comes out and comes available.

Evidence based practice, we're doing training on ethics and helping relationships.

Training on ethics listen working with juvenile, training on evidence based practices.

And research on transitional planning from correctional settings.

Finally in housing we're collaborating once again primarily with echo initiative and city of austin neighborhood housing.

Transition planning for correctional settings initiative is underway and going fast.

Finally, I'd like to read to you just a brief paragraph that our chair wrote to sum things up.

The efforts that the agency has taken have all been driven by the input of this community at our community forum citizens have shared stories describing needs, hurdles they face as reentry population.

During the past year over 500 of our community dedicated time, expertise and energy to accomplish ambitious goals of the planning council committee and focus groups.

As a result we have developed a map to help us reaching our goals and move even closer to a public safe community.

The round table appreciates the city of austin, each of you and your concern and your realization that reentry and successful reentry will promote not only promote but have a great impact on public safety for everyone.

And appreciate everything you do and your support.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: And we appreciate everything you do.

Thank you very much for the report.

Further questions?

Councilmember spelman.

Mayor pro tem cole.

>> Cole: Thank you for the annual update and as usual your great presentation.

I'm wondering if you have any numbers in terms of the people that you actually help or the number of felons that you see a day or --

>> the round table --

>> Cole: Or a year.

>> The round table is not a service provider.

We don't provide direct services to individuals.

What we do is we are that conduit that will allow all those -- the people that do provide services to get more money to provide -- to help more people, to use strategies that will be more successful, to do systemic change and incubate a lot of strategies that, for instance, I'll give you a good example.

Citizen circles is something that is a lot of people will have natural support.

Let's say they are out of Travis State Jail and they will have natural support.

They will have Aunt Judy and Preacher Joe and, you know, different people that really care about them.

That citizen circle is a team of those people that help him before he leaves to say, okay, we need -- you need to find a place to live.

Where do you want to live?

And this volunteer says I can do that.

I'm a realtor and I can find a little efficiency apartment for you.

And okay, what about employment?

He says I want to be a brick layer.

Somebody on his team says I'll contact one and see who I can find that's interested in training someone as apprentice.

So that team works for that western.

Once he leaves that is correct team is there to help with transportation, medical needs, whatever.

>> Cole: So I guess what I'm trying to get at, I saw the number of partners such as Echo that actually work with you and I understand that you all also are a research organization, but I wanted to try to quantify that impact on the city or county as a whole to say that we are saving millions of dollars by actually helping to -- this population reenter society.

>> I think -- I think that could be done.

For instance, on our transition, we have a project right now we're working with Echo on transitional housing as a transition to come out.

And so we will be having data on that, how many people were served.

It doesn't mean we're going to actually be doing it, but we're setting the structure for it to be done.

It's something we've really -- we really have a problem with, we've talked about it particularly in our evidence based practice because that's primarily a group of statisticians and university people, and it's really difficult to be able to say how many people we are actually affecting.

We know how many organizations we're affecting, but most of the people we are affecting it's indirectly because those organizations are doing-

>> Cole: Let me ask you this.

Do you know of the organizations that are members of your organization how many that are people that they are providing direct services?

Do you have access to that information?

>> We probably could get that and I think that's a really good idea as far as evidence based practice to work on that because it's -- it's really hard.

We don't want to take credit for something someone else does, but we do want to take credit for providing the -- having that strategy in incubator and it coming to pass and passing the baton on to somebody else.

Once we pass the baton, we don't know and so I think that's something that our evidence based practice group can really -- geraldine nagy and sandra eanes are chairs and think they could get input from all the different organizations because we have -- I can't even begin to tell you how many actual partners we have that actually -- we don't want to take credit for what they do.

>> Cole: No, I understand.

I just wanted to be able to demonstrate in some specific concrete terms, not exactly what you do, but what you do in conjunction with others and the impact it makes on our city because that helps justify our social service dollars and any other incentive programs that we might put into place, for example, we had a company, i think it was u.s.

[Inaudible] who we worked with the chamber to recruit who actually is the only company I remember who was open to hirings or actually said they definitely would hire someone who had a felony conviction.

So if we're able to quantify that, then perhaps we can make some work on our matrix system or join with with did county as they contemplate incentive programs to give more weight to that.

>> Right.

And as I recall, I actually testified on behalf of --

>> Cole: I do recall.

>> And they said they will be contacting us when they get to that -- the building and construction and start doing the planning part.

So yeah, I mean that I think that it really would be possible, particularly on specific initiatives that we -- I'm trying to think, i was thinking like the four funding opportunities that -- four of the six that we have helped get the -- get the money for.

Some of those are long term, but there's no reason we can't turn to each one of them asay, you know, how many people did you actually serve.

I think the key is in the presentation to be able to make sure that we say these are the people that actually provided the services and what we did was help them to get to that point.

So I think that would be a really good goal for us for this upcoming year and I bet it will be on the next agenda for evidence based --

>> Cole: Thank you, mayor.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Councimember spelman.

>> Spelman: Actually along the same linings as mayor pro tem cole.

First I want to thank you.

You've been with thanked, you are going to be thanked, but I think it's easy for us to forget the scale necessary to support the population that your workers are supporting.

About how many people return from state jails and prisons so travis county every year in.

>> Over 4,000.

Over 4,000.

>> Spelman: We've got 800,000 people in the city of austin of whom probably about 3,000 are returning to the city of austin.

It's a very substantial proportion of our entire population, a bigger proportion of our adult population who are going to find it very difficult to get housing, health care, job training and jobs by virtue of the fact where they have been spending the last few years of their life and this is a definitional case is the most difficult who are most in need of help in order to maintain stability of our economy and society and just to provide opportunities for people.

So I really appreciate what it is you are doing for a bigger proportion of our population than most of us really realize.

I particularly have to ask a really easy question.

grant or your participants have grant for 20 units of urban and supportive housing.

Is that right?

>> It was actually through echo that we assisted them and it was like a bonus.

It was \$400,000 bonus.

>> Spelman: On top of what they were doing.

>> For psh units.

>> Spelman: When are those going to be on line?

>> We're getting the money in for a lot of units.

>> Spelman: That was my question.

>> The people that will actually rent to someone that -- now, we're working closely with -- with hawka, you know, relaxing a little bit of their policies especially around debt.

It has gotten involved in the criminal justice system, but we really have a major problem, it's not only affordable hour,, but it's affordable housing that will accept persons with criminal backgrounds.

>> Spelman: Okay.

>> I think that those units are -- I mean, the money is already available and i think some of the units are coming on line but I'm not sure if all 20 are on line yet.

>> Spelman: Okay.

Betsy, would you be able to help us with --

>> betsy, the 400,000 that we got for permanent supportive housing.

>> It's my understanding that it is -- the funds will be used for rental subsidy and for the operation.

So it's not -- there will be no construction costs.

It's not constructing new units, but it is a bonus on the continuum of care.

>> Spelman: It's rental support and provision of services.

So the money is going to be going not just to buying down the rent so it's affordable but also to providing services.

>> That's correct.

>> Spelman: How are we going to do that?

Where are we finding our 20 units?

>> I believe there's a nonprofit.

I believe that they are going to be utilized in the relationship with with the through caritas.

>> Spelman: We have a relatively large property and 20 units will be permanent supportive housing but it's not going to be a block of units that this is permanent supportive housing, this is going to be interspersed.

>> The units are scattered.

>> Yeah, we're real insistent on scattered sites.

When we talk about over 4,000 coming out, you need to probably quadruple that because there's families also and the round table does a lot of work with the families of people that are incarcerated.

So the impact is more than finding a house for 4,000.

It's finding houses for a lot more than that.

>> Spelman: The public stereotype of somebody returning to jail or prison is very different than reality, isn't it?

>> Yes.

>> Spelman: About those 50 additional units, you said a concept paper was accepted by the burrow of justice assistance.

What it's mean for a paper to be accepted?

Does this halloween the money is on the way or they are thinking about it?

>> It's for phase 2, and that will be 50 units of supportive housing for frequent users of the criminal justice system.

And that's primarily community --

>> peter valdez, community court.

In regards to the 20 units of permanent supportive housing through caritas, we have placed seven foundations and we started doing that in january of this year.

They are still waiting to locate the next three.

And those are all at spring terrace currently.

Foundation communications is also going to provide the next ten units.

They just don't know at which of their locations those are going to be.

>> Spelman: So we're talking foundation communities has apartment buildings all over town and they are not going to put them all in spring terrace, they are going to try and put them in various places.

>> They are trying to divide them up into two sections of ten.

>> Spelman: Because it will be easier to provide services if they are a li concentrated, but we're talking about an apartment complex consisting of only ex-offenders.

>> Right.

>> Spelman: Jerry and i were discussing the concept being accepted and money be able at some point for another 50.

Given the difficulty you've had locating a place for 20, it sounds like another.

>> Will be even more difficult.

How do you think you will go about doing that?

>> Even with foundation communities it's been difficult in that some of the individuals that we have placed and some of the ones that have applied can't get through the program because of their criminal histories, even through foundation communities.

So that is going to be a long-term issue.

>> Spelman: What do you mean by can't get through the program?

>> They are appealing -- they apply, they go through the process of applying.

The fact that we have a direct access to those units because of this project that we're working on has helped in speed up the process, but they still have to qualify just like anybody else and meet all the criteria.

And the issue that we're having is that some of these individuals have extensive criminal histories; therefore, foundation communities will deny them, but then they go through an appeals process and if they have documentation supporting their entry into the program, for example, if they've gone through treatment and that treatment provider will provide them letters, then foundation communities will consider taking them at that point.

>> Spelman: Okay.

>> But meanwhile, they are at risk for reoffending or relapsing.

>> Spelman: How long is that whole process taking?

>> So far it's taking between 30 and 90 days depending on the individual.

>> Spelman: So they have to make due with temporary housing for 30 to 90 days and at least some of them just won't be able to find a permanent place to stay at all.

We're going to have to find some other way to help them.

>> What we've done is put them into transitional house.

We're funding transitional housing through our social services dollar.

>> Spelman: Is there anything we could do to work with the offenders you have in mind to prepare them for this housing program so that they are more likely to be acceptable to foundation communities?

>> Definitely the treatment, whether it be substance abuse or mental health, to begin at the point of application, which is what we're doing now, is if we refer them to a 90-day program, we start the application as soon as they are referred to that 90-day treatment program.

So that hopefully by the end of the 90 days, they will be ready to go into a unit.

>> Spelman: Okay.

That fits along the time line and I think that's going to be sufficient at least some of the time for foundation communities to accept that client.

>> We're hoping, yes.

And we're certainly advocate to go foundation communities to speed the appeals process up as well.

Because currently they only meet once a month, i believe, for appeals.

>> Spelman: Okay.

Thank you very much.

>> You have a real good point because what we know is every time a former offender has to move, his -- the odds of him reoffending increase by 25%.

So if we can get people into permanent supportive housing quickly and not have a lot -- you know, couch to couch transition place, transition players then we're really going continue to crease those successful reentries.

One of the keys to that is preparation before they ever leave.

>> Spelman: Right.

>> Travis county has an in-out model at the state jail.

The citizen circle that i was telling you about that we're doing research and work plans for somebody to take over this kind of in and out model.

So the real key would be you have a man here that needs cons he willing, they contact -- counseling, they get that application going so that when he leaves, he has a permanent supportive housing.

Right now our problem is support service dollars as much as housing.

Don't you agree, betsy?

It's finding houses.

Caritas is, of course, one of our great supporters and has done incredible things to accept people into their housing, but there's just a huge problem of needing to educate realtors, educate, you know, apartment managers and just the whole community.

Just, you know, this is not, you know, it has to be changed.

>> Spelman: Part of it is education and part of it may be some changes in procedures on the part of the apartment owners.

Foundation communities has probably had to do things to accommodate the ten ex-offenders who are living in spring terrace and they are probably feeling their way through this if they are going to accept more and maybe if that number goes you 'make some other things are going to have to change.

They are working through it because they don't have a lot of experience with this class of clientele yet.

>> Other communities have done different things.

One of the things that we do here in our community, for instance with employment, there's incentive if you employ someone that has a criminal background, there's certain tax breaks and incentives that are given.

One thing that came up the other night, commissioner elkhart is talking about future contracts with people.

And if they will hire former offenders and they get extra money or a bigger tax break or whatever.

Or even to the point of saying, you know, we want -- you know, we want -- we are specifically going to give priority to persons that will hire.

I think the same thing is going to need to happen in the housing industry.

We're going to have to have incentives to get landlords and to get people to give it a try.

The data is there.

[Inaudible] is a tremendous example.

They have a tremendous success rate.

No problems whatsoever.

But it's still just that old thought of, you know, a felon and not in my backyard.

>> Spelman: Right.

Who has a tremendous success rate?

You said that.

>> Black land.

>> Spelman: Black land.

I'd like to thank you very much for your help.

I don't -- I know you are not looking forward to the process of finding 50 more places in that scarce world of housing but I appreciate your efforts to find them.

Another question for you.

>> Is this the hard one?

>> Spelman: This is the hard one but it won't take as long to answer.

I very much appreciate the focus that you and your group have on faith based practice.

nagy and i have a pretty good sense what you are talking about here, but I wonder if you could review for us what counts as evidence and what doesn't.

How do we know this is evidence worthy of being called evidence based practice?

>> There's a national register now and it's pretty difficult to get on it.

I mean, you have to really -- it doesn't require longitudinal data but it does require real solid data that what strategy use or what model you are trying to get accepted.

And so the national registry is what you primarily go to.

And that's growing rapidly.

>> Spelman: Who is responsible for producing the studies, the research results that show up on this registry?

>> It depends subject.

Princeton [inaudible] has a huge database as far as substance abuse and help.

The feds have databases for what's evidence based.

What they consider evidence based.

>> Spelman: What they have done at federal agencies is take research studies they found lying around.

What's the basis for their recent studies?

Where do these actually come from?

>> Where do they come from?

>> Research on whom?

>> Pardon me.

>> Spelman: Let me run an idea past you.

It's my impression that the evidence that ends up being included in the national registry are research studies conducted of places like travis county and activities conducted by people like your participants.

Echo will do something and watch carefully how well it works and if it works really well, then they document how much money was saved, how much the outcomes have improved, reduction in recidivism, so on.

And if this study is good enough somehow to be included in that basis of evidence that samsa and the others got put together, then it's just one more brick in ediface.

>> Yeah, there's certain criteria when you apply to have a model accepted as evidence based.

They have certain criteria that you have to meet.

And most of it is data related.

You know, what really works to say you reduced recidivism by 18%, how are you defining recidivism.

Because this this person device it this way and another this way, that's apples and oranges.

It's a pretty rigid process so in the beginning there weren't many model that is were certified as evidence based.

That's significant changed now.

And it's in all fields.

It's not just in criminal justice.

>> Spelman: I'm familiar with the campbell collaborative, the cochrane collaborative in health care is large -- beginning to take over the actual practice of clinical medicine, which is a very good thing, I think.

If you could just give us an example of, you suggested off the top of your head --

>> Mayor Leffingwell: We're good to have to break.

>> Spelman: I'm going to be done in just one moment, sir.

There are practices that sound good but don't work.

This is the last question i have.

I wonder if you could give me an example of something that sounded good that didn't really work that not doing very much of in travis county but we used to do a lot of in the past.

>> I think that -- gosh, i don't want to get anybody in trouble.

I think that -- a couple years ago, for instance, we did a guide to caregivers.

And it was a joint effort for law enforcement to be able when they made an arrest and they got to the home and a child was involved, we made a fabulous brochure that they could give to whoever was -- whoever they turned the children over to whether it be a grandmother or aunt or neighbor.

And that guide tells them what to expect from the child at different ages developmentally.

It also tells them what to expect from the system, what their loved one or their person that was arrested is going through, what the process is.

And the travis county sheriff's department still gives those out.

All of the service people.

We have not been successful , i talked to them last night and they are going to start training them as well because it's proven to be really, really good, but you can develop it and it can be there but if it's not used, you've wasted all that time and money and expertise that into developing it.

And ironically it was often 's victim service people that actually developed most of the brochure replicating an arizona model.

But so it was a great deal, you know, and it would work if it's passed out.

So now it's going to be passed out and hopefully it will work.

That's just an example.

>> Spelman: Here's an example of a great evidence based practice.

We know it works, we've got evidence from other jurisdictions around the country it works.

We haven't adopted it yet but we are.

nagy is a prime example of that.

Actually talking about the medical field, the medical field is where evidence based practice began and now it's spreading to other disciplines.

Thank you all.

Appreciate everything.

>> Spelman: Thank you.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Councilmember morrison, did you have a quick question?

Let me ask are there any more questions beyond this?

>> Morrison: Thank you for your work and I don't want you to have to stay over, but you are talking about the population in terms of male as the he and the man.

Could you tell us what the split between male and female are and tell us what any special issues and focuses that arise with regard to the female population?

>> Tons of difference.

Tons of difference.

And I typically try to say men and women.

But, of course, a lot more men.

There's only -- there's 14% women, but the problems with the women are significant in many ways.

First off, they are reuniting with their children or trying to and trying to get their kids back.

We have some really good programs here that are specific to women, we just don't have enough of them.

And we have some in-house, while they are in jail, those types of preparations.

As far as programs coming out of the prison, we are really, really lacking in that whole arena because the closest womens prison is gatesville.

And there's just not very many service providers that are willing to go that far to work with women so when they come out, you know, they really have very little to no preparation whatsoever.

Travis county criminal justice planning was just offered a grant that focuses on women and we have a planning grant that we have been awarded that is supposed to have a special focus on women just for that very reason.

And their hurdles and barriers are totally different.

>> Morrison: I appreciate that and I look forward to hearing more, our time is limited.

You for your work with arathane and we asked staff to help us work on actually capturing and quantify be performance if we're really going to in the future take a look at that as part of the incentive and I think it's a great idea and get it more formalized.

>> Truthfully since you all moved the box, the city can look at what offenders y'all have hired.

I would turn to your human resource and say I want to you track this and see how many are still working, how they were successful.

You are an employer as well.

>> Morrison: That's a great idea.

>> And I think it's really important for the future and I'll shut up, I promise.

I think you really do need to consider the possibility as you enter into contracts, the possibility of maybe having an incentive for, you know, when people apply you get extra three points if you move the box and do the only in secured areas.

Those incentives will make a lot of difference.

>> Morrison: Great idea.

Thank you very much.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Thank you.

We'll go to our speakers.

First is jeff kantoff.

Jeff kantoff.

I want to remind everyone if you haven't signed up for a specific subject, you are willing to talk about anything you want to but we can't engage in any discussion with you about what -- unless it's pre-designated.

>> I'm aware of that.

Thank you.

Good afternoon.

I'm here just basically to talk about the proposed \$2 million for the community awareness in regard to the ridiculously selective bag ban.

Yet another massive waste of citizens' tax dollars.

The city yet again is planning on enacting an ordinance or policy such as downtown surveillance cameras and then throws the outrageous cost to citizens to pay for it.

I know I'm not alone in saying many of us are getting tired of funding our ever growing nanny state here in austin.

I propose that members of the texas campaign for the environment as well as the councilmembers who voted for this bag ban pool their money and pay for this public awareness campaign themselves.

While I have no proof, i suspect the grocery chains might be behind this ban because it would not only save them money, they will now be able to sell the reusable bags.

I further propose why not let the grocery stores create a voucher system to provide customers with free reusable bags based on the dollar amount they purchase in groceries.

And they can fund providing them for the low income citizens with the savings they will get by not having to purchase the disposable plastic ones anymore.

Let the grocery stores be responsible for the public awareness aspect.

It would be far less expensive for the taxpayer.

When citizens show up to buy groceries and don't have their reusable bag, they will get the message fast, they will not be able to go home with any groceries.

Thank you.

[Applause]

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Next speaker is wilma cloud.

-- will McLeod.

>> Good afternoon, mayor, city council.

For the record my name is will McLeod and I would like to speak about with issues concerning the city of austin.

First of all, the citizens and system I citizens such as myself and I call my self a semi citizen or semi austin because I reside in city of austin and san antonio of san antonio and spend equal time in both cities.

You have several years not one, not two dating back to at least 2009 to deal with sidewalks and street repairs and you have failed.

Back in 2009 I got my foot caught in one of your many potholes and an enormous hospital bill which i refused to pay.

I called 311 to fix it and guess what, it still hasn't been fixed.

It is on colorado street and it's still in disrepair yet nothing is done.

On the next issue, 8100 burnet road, you have given barry partners the green light to start building a five-story apartment complex with rents starting at a whopping \$850 a month.

Councilmember martinez is barry partners doing any work on your east 11th street if if so you should have abstained from voting.

Martinez, leffingwell you are all on the campo board.

Did you know barry partners constructed the try -- why don't you recrews yourself from voting on action item 81 on 4-5-12.

Conflict of interest?

After a thundershower row self-investigation, I'm disappointed councilmember martinez interrupted my interview with with the fta administrator.

Something to hide?

It was your voice in the background picked up by my camera.

I wouldn't interrupt your conversation with mainstream media.

I don't expect to be interrupted when I interview a government official, especially a federal government issue.

I will bring this issue up further at the capital metro board meeting.

I do plan to -- follow up with mr. rogoft.

Councilmember spelman, most people cannot afford a \$120,000 home or condo.

Since there is no projector available, I will tell you how much home I can afford.

\$66,271.

Assuming my debts are.

No more than \$250 a month and that doesn't include the jacked up rates Austin Energy plans to charge.

Councilmember Spelman, don't blow off a person when they ask questions and refer them to your staffer.

You represent Austin and Austin witnesses answers to questions.

As a public servant, have you the obligation.

One person dodging questions makes you look bad.

Austin Energy should include SSDI as part of the cap program.

Not only SSDI problems but needs to be an internal audit of the previous cap customers before the change.

In other words, grandfather those in.

Austin Energy should exempt all of MAP not just some of it.

If someone qualifies for lifetime telephone discount they should get capped with the same form.

Is that really hard to do?

Care about your low-income constituents or you just want to kowtow to developers.

My mom and brother's birthday is today.

I don't want to be selfish.

They were out of nursery water but I brought you a present.

It is anti-cavity fluoride rinse.

It contains your favorite mineral, fluoride.

Don't disappoint my family, drink it, you really love your fluoride, we don't.

[Applause]

>> Cole: Thank you.

Daniel Ilanes.

>> Good afternoon, council.

I thought I would come over here because I'm usually over there.

I'm here with austinites for geographic representation and we have a video we would like to show you.

These are some of my other colleagues.

>> My name is gonzalo barrientos.

These individuals are present -- happened in austin hopefully.

The city council created a process by appointing this committee called the charter revision committee that was to determine with public input, of course, the recommendations on ways to improve our city government for the coming years.

>> As much as a lot of people don't want to admit it, racism is a fundamental part of the way austin has done business since the beginning.

For whatever reason, 2012 is emerging as a year when many organizations are coming together to eliminate racism from austin.

The charter revision commission, the austinites for geographic representation, activate austin and others.

As the charter defending our citizens against discrimination in the areas of housing, public accommodations and employment.

But it also has the charter of e austinites on issue racism.

By unanimously passing a resolution in favor of that plan for all the reasons you have heard and will hear.

I stand here proudly representing the human rights commission and its commitment to work with everyone in removing racism as a factor in the way things work here in austin.

>> Our recommendation is [inaudible].

It also asks all the questions of the voting rights act where you are talking about reapportionment [inaudible].

But I will say I'm very disappointed because in my opinion our [inaudible] says it all.

About what we talked about, what we thought about, what [inaudible].

In the name of arthur b.

Woody [inaudible] 0 years to do the same thing.

I feel honored to say today this is an historic process.

Thanks to the [inaudible] diverse in every possible way, I think [inaudible].

It's very, very clear.

So I would encourage our city council, please adopt recommendation.

Let's do this the right way.

Make the city a better city so we can 21st century and make sure everyone has fair and equal represent education.

[Buzzer sounding]

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Thank you.

>> Please --

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Howard kells.

Hardship created by lack of fire inspector plan reviewers.

>> Thank you mayor, councilmembers, thank you for this opportunity to appear before you.

Your success in making austin a very livable city, a very good city to live in, the second fastest growing area in the country has caused your planning and fire marshal's office to crash and melt down.

There's a great sense of frustration at all levels for contractors to subcontractors to the laborers that don't know when their next job is going to start because they are not sure when the permit is going to arrive.

Let me share some facts with thaw I received from your staff yesterday.

Out of -- there are 120 to 130 projects that are behind each day in the development review process per the land development code.

So that means the city is not meeting its own ordinance that you wrote and enacted on timely reviews.

Currently in the fire department there are 352 plans under review by six reviewers.

256 Plans are overyou due.

Let me share a couple of personal experiences with you from my project.

I've been working with one medical building that needs some chillers replaced.

We've been months in the process.

Our plans, our seven-day turn-around has gone a lot further than seven days and people are suffering.

There's thousands of dollars being wasted.

I have some employers that have an office that's already built but they can't occupy it because the fire marshal's office hasn't reviewed the fire sprinkler plans and we can't get a until the fire plans are reviewed for our final inspection.

I think your staff mitch appreciates the temporary help that was granted.

In my opinion it was late in coming since the request was put in in march of 2011.

And unfortunately for all of us, this problem is only going to get worse.

Austin is going to continue to grow.

I'm here today to ask for decisive action to get help for your staff who begs it.

When your staff is reaching out to everyone who goes to one texas center who is totally frustrated and their only reply is talk to the city council.

They are the ones who determine our staffing levels.

Are there any questions can I answer?

>> Mayor Leffingwell: I'll just say I agree with you.

This is a problem we have to address and we are beginning address it and i understand the difficulty it places you and a lot of other folks in.

>> Thank you.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Chris scherer.

Chris scherer.

Not in the chamber.

Ronnie reeferseed.

Ronnie, before you start, i want to just advise you that any rude or lewd gestures or comments will result in your time being terminated.

>> Okay.

I'm not surprised.

Hallelujah, yes, I'm still ronnie reeferseed, still singing praises to all my friends especially including helping hands ministry.

At bee creek united methodist church.

Vote for soon to be mayor clay dafoe on may 12, rejoice these lock step amnesiaiacs.

ron paul revolution of love for liberty through our precious constitution just doesn't exist.

However, in college station tuesday I can testify to witnessing an explosion of enthusiasm, devotion and paul, the entire stadium was packed to overflowing.

It was perhaps the best speech I've heard from ron paul as he rocks the stadium.

Every color and ethnicity of those college students were cheering yee-haw.

Thinking citizens know we all must stop the global killing machine that continually executes men, women, children, babies, dogs, donkeys, whatever.

Worldwide, sure, those same lock step amnesiaiacs still refuse to grant any of us permission to just say no to senseless world war.

ron paul can deliver love, peace and liberty to our nation and thus the world.

Those easily hammable, programable, so-called voting machines keep on defying our peace loving citizens their verdict on paul in iowa, maine, minnesota, nevada, on and on, voters are constantly told not to believe their own eyes, just ignore the fact all those ron paul bumper stickers, t-shirts, use keep showing up everywhere.

Has anyone out there ever seen a bumper sticker for governor romney care?

For third wife gingrich?

No, they don't exist.

I do occasionally see here so-called president for so-called peace prize but it's not real.

Neither is his sloppy so-called birth certificate.

Face it, this kenyan born subject to the queen of england bangster stooge is ineligible.

This phonic dater who must be impeached, removed from office now.

To stop the killing worldwide here at home let's remove mayor laughingwell.

We don't need you anymore.

Wake up everyone.

Be sure to vote may 12 for for clay dafoe, soon to be mayor of stint yes, he's the man.

He's smarter than anybody else in the room and everybody knows it.

Look it up, clay dafoe for mayor.

Thank you.

Thanks for giving me the time to speak.

I really appreciate it.

I'm a citizen, I have this right.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Okay, now you are time is just about up.

Paul robbins.

[Buzzer sounding] and no topic.

>> Mayor, would you hold my time?

I need to clarify something.

It was in september of 2009 that the city attorney made a ruling that people with what would be termed ambiguous subjects on citizens communication could not -- could not be --

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Your time is running.

This counts as your time.

>> Would you please start my time.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: It is started already.

>> I am paul robbins.

I'm an environmental activist and consumer advocate.

I recently completed a report showing austin has the highest combined water wastewater cost of the top ten texas cities.

The report is entitled hard to swallow and can be downloaded on a website environmental directory.info.

Austin is 53% higher than the average of the nine texas cities and 29% higher than its nearest rival and it is highest in all rate classes, residential, commercial, multi-family and industrial.

I want to briefly cite some of the reasons for this.

Slide.

The primary reason is the high cost of the enormous debt we owe on our water system.

52% Of austin's water, wastewater budget in 2012 was debt, times coverage equity related to debt.

This chart shows the debt per capita which will almost double between the year 2000 and 2016.

Slide.

Another is unsold land assets.

Austin owns more than 400 parcels of land.

Many are essential to the system, but some could be sold to reclaim money to buy down the debt and lower rates.

This slide lists four such parcels.

They include the former green water treatment plant site.

This council intends to approve sale on april 26th but plans to give the profit to the general fund instead of back to the utility that owned it.

Slide.

Another reason for high water cost is the general fund transfer of profit which makes up 8% of the total budget.

This chart shows that austin's transfer of about 37 million is 8 to 12 million more than if the transfer in 2000 had been adjusted for inflation, sales volume and population growth.

Slide.

Energy use makes up 5% of the total 2012 budget.

Since 2002 austin's energy use per million gallons of water has stayed the same and aggressive energy conservation program was proposed last year but little if any progress to date has been made.

Slide.

You can see this report again at [www environmental directory dot info](http://www.environmental-directory.info).

Again, council, I advise that you ask the city auditor or independent consultant to determine why austin has the highest cost water utility in the top ten texas cities.

To reiterate what I was trying to say at the beginning, the city attorney in 2009 said that council could ask -- [buzzer sounding] -- spontaneous questions --

>> Mayor Leffingwell: And your time has expired.

>> Are there any spontaneous questions?

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Councilmember tovo.

>> Tovo: I have a question --

>> Mayor Leffingwell: You can't have any discussion about an issue that has not been posted.

>> Tovo: I understand, but doing the ruling from september 2009 shed light on what would be considered spontaneous questions?

Okay.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: That's my ruling.

If you want to ask a question, go ahead and we'll decide if it's spontaneous or not.

>> Tovo: Okay.

I don't actually have any questions about this presentation.

I was interested in the answer to that.

We'll continue to follow up on that.

Thanks.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Carlos leon.

Chem trail recent update, 2, yet to be finalized, which is, again, not a topic.

>> We can start with that first slide.

Thank you.

Thank you, mayor leffingwell.

Thursday, april 12, 2012, i carlos leon am here to speak for what's right.

In addition to poisoning our air, water and land, chem trail wants to patrol how we think.

No one takes responsibility for being there yet they continue to be there on some days.

That cognitive dissonance constitutes a psychological tack to autistics.

Controllers also operate at lower depths.

electronic com, one immoral, inhumane and illegal high tech operation is something called synthetic telepathy.

Like the movie with leo dicaprio, specific scenes force good the mind when sleeping to response to certain situations and attempt to reprogram his mind.

Such electronic mind control seems to be occurring large scale in our society given how many people appear so easily distracted, misdirected and forgetful when playing with their smart phones, using computers or watching t.v.

Fight back by disconnecting from the e-verse.

Turn on a heavily program.

Get off facebook and get on god's book.

The orwell's 1984 warned of the danger of big brother, thought police, double speak and the big heat n 2012 other books in different forms.

The click books and pretty liars series are best selling female author tine girl novels that attempt to undermine traditional christian levels and transform sweet girls into selfish, manipulative mean woman.

Look at the negative and unforgiving title.

What do they say about cliques and liars to you.

Listen to wicked sick opening.

Wouldn't -- next slide.

Wouldn't it be nice to know what people are thinking if everyone's heads were like those year mark jacob's totes necessitated of arrest keys or a tube of lip gloss.

You wouldn't have to guess whether your best friend was mad at the new year's eve party.

You would just peek into her head and know.

Unfortunately everyone's heads are locked tighter than the pentagon.

It smells like the poisonous gas that the fountain head warned us about.

Read the second sample of my work given to you april 12, 2012.

Together we must get back to what's real and true to free ourselves from this madness and move forward the right way.

Pray for our provision and protection and the enemy's healing and salvation.

Thank you.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Thank you.

And you know, I did a lot of those chem trails back a few years ago myself.

I thought they were pretty.

Without objection, the city council will go into closed session to take up one item.

071 of the government code, city council will consult with legal counsel arting the item 30, discuss legal issues related to open government matters.

Any objection to go into executive session?

Hearing none, we'll now go into executive session.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: We are out of recess and we'll begin with our public hearings for tonight, item 31, which is to conduct a public hearing and receive citizen input on a substantial amendment to the city's fiscal year 2011-2012 ax plan on the cdc.

We have two speakers signed up.

The first is ronnie reeferseed.

>> Hello again and wake up everybody.

Be sure to vote may 12 for clay dafoe soon to be mayor of austin.

About this issue, greetings, soon to be ousted same old tired old political hack, I'm shocked that once again our basic rights and duties to provide you guidance through input about anything you do here is here and now in the form of a resolution about possible actions.

Once again you all keep shamefully proving that each and every one you has not ever bothered to read and comprehend your own oaths of office nor ever bothered to read and comprehend our precious texas and/or u.s.

Substitutions.

There will you find and indeed you are required as public servants not dictators to seek maximum opportunities for public input to anything you say or do here.

No, you are not allowed to continual proceed to criminally conspire to get kickbacks and/or special deals for your own personal benefits.

Thus you are all required to provide the maximum transparency to exactly how and why you choose to waste our precious taxpayers' dollars every time.

Like on the idiotic rail system.

We do not have to ask your permission to provide your guidance through input from us.

To provide you guidance through input --

>> Mayor Leffingwell: reeferseed, I've paused your time.

I just want to ask are you going to draw the connection between the things you have been talking about and the public hearing?

>> I'm talking about that right now.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: About the 2012 program?

>> Yeah, I read it.

I'm just reminding you about your duties, okay?

>> Mayor Leffingwell: I'm going to wait for you to make that connection.

>> Okay.

I'll spell it out.

To provide you guidance through input from your boss the taxpayer.

Again I urge you to please, please, please bother to read your own oath of office and also our nation's founding documents, especially the constitution.

You all swear to uphold it and the great state of texas and the constitution of the united states of america.

And just because kenyan born subject to the queen of england bankster stooge so-called president peace prize is trying to is that to shatter our constitution, he's not going to get away with it.

I'm trying to speak to the issue.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: will McLeod is not in the chamber.

Those are all the speakers signed up to speak.

I'll entertain a motion to close the public hearing.

Council martinez moves to close the public hearing, seconded by -- all those in favor please say aye.

Opposed.

Passes on a vote of 6-0 with mayor pro tem cole off the dais.

We'll go to items 32 through 35 which we will -- we have no citizens signed up to speak.

A presentation from staff.

>> Mayor and council, virginia collier from planning and development review.

This is the first of two public hearings regarding a strategic partnership as well as the pilot knob which are 36 through 40 on your agenda.

The second hearing is scheduled thursday, april 26th here at 4:00 p.m.

In addition to the city's hearings, each district is scheduled to conduct two public hearings regarding THESE SPAs DURING THE First two weeks in may.

In accordance with procedural requirements, the MUDs MUST ADOPT SPAs According to the city so if all goes to skill these will be approved may 24 with effective JUNE 4th.

On March 22 the city council consented to creation of the and authorized staff to enter into negotiations.

As a condition of the city's consent, the city in each must enter into a SPA.

Once again the southeast SPAs are located in southeastern Travis County in the city's east of the airport near State Highway 71 and include approximately 1,604 acres.

SPAs include approximately 2,200 acres in the city's e.t.j. near 183 and 1625.

Both areas are currently undeveloped and projected development at each location includes a mixed use project that will be developed in accordance with the city zoning and site development standards and the P.U.D.

Regulations in compliance with consent agreement.

The proposed SPA for each allows the city to annex these areas for limited purposes of planning and zoning which we anticipate will be effective June 4 and will extend the city's regulatory authority regarding land use and environmental quality to the area.

As part of the request for limited-purpose annexation, owners have waived the requirement for the property to be annexed for full purpose and the city and district agreed -- until the SPAs have had significant and for southeast Travis County 11 to 17 years.

Limited-purpose annexation with the future conversion to full purpose status will be of benefit to the owners of the property and future residents and business owners as well as the city with city development regulations resulting in higher quality developments than would otherwise occur. In regard to zoning the area will be zoned in accordance with procedures required by state law and city code from the effective date of the limited-purpose annexation until the property is zoned, the area will be treated for development purposes in accordance with interim zoning designation.

For Pilot Knob, for approximately 74 acres in number 3 where they could build up to 300 single-family lots and the remainder rural residential.

For southeast Travis County that would include SF-4 a 1 and the remainder SP-2 with zoning coming back to city council for both projects.

FINALLY THE PROPOSED SPAs Provide for continuation of each district following pickup purpose annexation by the city as a limited district to maintain and operate facilities.

As for any full-purpose annexation the city will begin providing full municipal services as described in the service plan.

Future property owners will receive a notice to purchase summarizing city's intention to annex all the land in accordance with the SPA.

And both the service plan and the notice will be included as exhibits to is spa.

That that concluding my staff comments for these m.u.d.s.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: And that was a presentation for 32 through 35 and 36 through 40?

>> All of the remainder.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: So right now we're conducting a public hearing for items 32 through 35, which is the southeast travis county m.u.d. s.p.a.

We have no speakers signed up.

Councilmember morrison.

>> Morrison: I have one question for staff.

One of the questions that i had submitted in the response said there's one remaining issue relating to developer eligibility for water or wastewater cost reimbursement if the infrastructure is not built out by the time the m.u.d.

Is annexed.

And that that's currently under discussion.

Could you elaborate on that a little bit?

>> Sure, I'm bart jennings with the austin water utility.

After annexation we have the strategic partnership agreement that will take place.

The agreement that we have with -- within the consent agreement is certain projects, the developer is going to pay for those without city reimbursement.

The question comes is after the district is dissolved, what happens to that commitment.

Does it extend further and go essentially run with the land and the developer or does it dissipate and if so if infrastructure isn't completed in accordance with the master conceptual plan, does that mean then the landowners can then seek city cost reimbursement and cost participation on that major infrastructure in accordance to whatever the current policies and ordinances of the council are at that time.

>> Morrison: Bottom line the plan is for it to be built out.

>> The question is what happens if it doesn't.

What happens if the city chooses to annex prior to all of those facilities being constructed.

>> Morrison: I guess one side of that issue would be that -- our, the city's plan, is to be able to take on that land within our city elements and we have no plans -- city limits and we have no plans for finance, our expectation is that it will be completely built.

>> It's our expectation from staff's perspective that the agreements that are laid out in the consent agreement continue and that the developer would honor those commitments that we've made.

But that's something that's up for discussion and i believe we're going to be meeting on monday to do that.

>> Morrison: And I guess the other side of the coin, what would -- what would be the rationale for not honoring those commitments?

>> I don't know all the rationale.

That's why we're going to be meeting and discussing that.

But from what I've heard thus far is that the developer's perspective that the consent agreement is the consent agreement and those were the obligations of the developer th.

If the city chooses to annex at whatever particular time, that changes everything.

The district is no longer there and those commitments also should go as the way of the district.

>> Morrison: And does the spa have a time line for full purpose annex?

>> The strategic partnership agreement does set out as well as the consent agreements sets out particular time frames that the city can annex after.

It's still the city's discretionary decision in terms of council of when you want to annex.

There are some time frames that the developer wanted to make sure that they could at least get some of the bonding done before annexation, and again as one of the concerns that we've put in the consent agreement there's a date of the last bond issuance although we don't have them coming up to the end of when we're going to annex and suddenly going for a bond issuance that's going to create a financial impediment for annexation.

>> Morrison: I appreciate that and it would be helpful for me if once you have that meeting if you could keep us updated on the status of the discussions and how it --

>> yes, ma'am.

Absolutely.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Any more questions?

I'll entertain a motion to close the public hearing on the southeast travis county m.u.d. s.p.a.

Councilmember martinez so moves.

Seconded by councilmember spelman.

All in favor say aye.

Opposed say no.

Passes on a vote of 7-0.

We'll now consider items 36 through 40 together.

Which is the same public hearing for the pilot knob s.p.a.

We have no speakers signed up.

Any questions or comments from councilmembers?

I'll entertain a motion to close the public hearing on items 36 through 40.

Councilmember martinez so moves.

Mayor pro tem cole seconds.

All in favor say aye.

Aye.

Opposed say no.

Passes on a vote of 7-0.

And I believe city clerk, those are all the items on our agenda for today so without objection we stand adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Test test test

>> good afternoon, it's time for live music at austin city council.

[Applause] so joining us today is singer songwriter charlie faye.

Her musical influences have been carol king, neil young and tom petty.

She is one of the austin's unique americana and folk rock performers.

In 2010 charlie embarked on a modern bohemian adventure.

Ten months, made her home in ten different cities including los angeles, portland, boulder, nashville and new york.

She didn't just land in the city, play in a show, take off the next day.

Instead she spent a month actually getting to know the people and personalities in each one of those places, and she traveled alone, put together a new band in each town, playing and hanging out with musicians in each location gave her a unique perspective on our national music culture.

She's also known for hosting austin centric room at folk alliance every year.

She's working on a new affordable housing project.

Welcome to austin city council on that issue.

For musicians and artists here in austin, so please help me welcome charlie faye.

Charlie?

[Applause] [🎵 music playing 🎵] [applause] did you write that?

Did you write that?

[Applause] sounds like an austin sound to me.

That was great.

Move over irish demitt.

Now you get an opportunity to make a shameless plug about where you're playing, where people can buy your music and how they can learn more about you.

>> All right.

so tell us a little bit.

>> I will make that shameless plug shamelessly.

I'm playing at the saks and public next thursday night, so a week from tonight at 00 and you can find my records on-line, on iTunes IF THAT'S HOW YOU Get your music or you can go to charliefaye.com.

>> Mayor leffingwell: great.

Okay.

Now we have a proclamation for you.

It says, be it known tt whereas the city of austin, texas is blessed with many creative musicians whose talent extends to virtually every musical genre, and whereas our music scene thrives because austin audiences support good music produced by legends, our local favorites and newcomers alike, and whereas we're pleased to showcase and support our local artists.

Now, therefore, I lee leffingwell, mayor of the city of austin, texas, music capital of the world, do hereby proclaim april 12, 2012 as charlie faye day in austin texas.

Congratulations.

[Cheers and applause] [applause] well, if I could have our visiting students come on up from koblenz.

We're going to present you with certificates.

For those of you who don't know, koblenz is a sister city to the city of austin, has been for a number of years, and we have probably one of the row -- most robust relationships with koblenz.

We visit back and forth very often, and we have a very active local committee that promotes that relationship and does a great job.

So -- are you going to read them?

Okay.

Well, let me just read the certificate and then y are -- julie elisher will read the names and I will present the certificates to each one of you.

But it reads, the city council of austin, texas proudly converse the title of -- confers the title of honorary citizen of -- state your name, we'll get to the names later, on this 12th day of april, 2012, signed by myself, lee leffingwell, austin mayor, and the names of all the city council members.

So if you want to read the names, pass them to me, I'll pass them out.

>> I would like to quickly introduce the teachers that took the long journey.

This.

[Foreign language] that come as teachers.

[Applause] elena auw.

Nicholas butinsik.

Nichol nichol as, congratulations, you're now citizen of austin, texas.

>> Shontau clawson.

>> Conrad volynnski.

>> Marcus dutch.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: marcus?

Congratulations.

>> Henrik seasonhou?

Congra congra tulations.

>> Mike hine.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: mike.

>> John avianho.

john arian.

>> Alisiar jarkobi.

Congra congra tulations.

>> Selip -- philip.

Congra congra tulations philip.

>> Tobias nok.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: tobias.

>> Kom chopcek.

Zimas zestman.

nice to meet you.

>> Anakata,.

Congra congra tulations.

>> Selena leffler.

>> Mayor leffingwell: selena.

Congratulations.

>> Chris.

chris, congratulations, chris.

>> Yanek loom.

yanek, congratulations.

>> Natalie luber.

Natali e, congratulations.

>> David mar.

I'll call you david.

Congratulations.

>> Julia fitsner.

>> Mayor leffingwell: julia.

Congratulations.

>> Catalina pepa.

Catali catali na.

>> Clara pistona.

>> Mayor leffingwell: clara.

Congratulations.

>> Tapia shlouab.

tabia, congratulations.

>> Francisca shriker.

Congra congra tulations.

>> Viana -- juliana.

juliana julian a.

Julian a.

>> Yanek steven.

yanek, second yanek.

>> Sophia.

>> Mayor leffingwell: sophia.

Congratulations to you.

>> Moristz weaver.

>> Mayor leffingwell: moritz.

Annika.

>> Mayor leffingwell: annika.

>> Ola zimmerman.

>> Mayor leffingwell: olak.

Congratulations.

You're now a citizen.

into the microphone so people on television can hear you.

>> Yeah.

Dear city of austin and dear, mr. mayor leffingwell.

It has been a great pleasure for us to be here in austin, and it is a great pleasure for us to stand here in the city chambers.

We, speaking for all Germans, want to say thank you for having us here in Austin.

>> Yes, we also wanted to say thank you to the families who are hosting us and who are making our time as enjoyable as possible, with showing us the beautiful town, Austin, with its gentle people and its wonderful weather.

And last but not least, we wanted to thank our exchange students for integrating us in their lives, and speaking for ourselves, it began as an exchange partnership, but it has grown to a friendship.

Thank you very much.

[Applause] [applause] Can all the parents please stand up?

And families?

[Applause] We have certificates for you too, which are going to be passed out a little bit later.

And thank you for coming and welcome to Austin, Texas, your sister city.

Thanks.

Meanwhile so now we want to honor a very important city department and the folks who work in that department, and also several volunteers who volunteer their time to help those in our community who are in need of help.

This is so important, as you all know, to the city of Austin.

It's one of our priorities to try to provide affordable housing and other basic needs to those most in need in our community, and we couldn't do it without you, we couldn't do it without the volunteers who are such an important part of our social service network.

I want to -- I want that to be very clear.

So I'm going to read the proclamation and then Betsy is going to say a few words and then we have certificates to pass out.

The proclamation reads, be it known that whereas, since 1975 the community development block grant program has provided local governments with the means to meet the needs of low and moderate income persons, and whereas Austin has customized the CDBG and HOME programs to address our community's most pressing needs, expanding affordable housing in all parts of Austin, providing jobs and employment training, small business loans, home buyer education, down payment assistance, home rehabilitation and services for children, seniors and persons with disabilities, and whereas we're pleased to recognize the neighborhood housing and community development office and the city's neighborhood and nonprofit partners for leveraging CDBG dollars for a lasting local impact.

Now, therefore, i, lee leffingwell, mayor of the city of austin, texas, do hereby proclaim april 8 through the 14th, 2012 as community development week in austin, texas.

[Applause] so I'll present this to you, and would you like to say a couple of words?

And I'll take these with me.

>> Okay.

Thank you, mayor.

As the mayor said, we received these funds in local communities since 1975 and they've been a tremendous benefit for low and moderate families in our community.

D we would not be able to provide this service if not for the volunteers, some of which you see behind us right now, that do a lot of the work that allows us to benefit the families in austin.

To include another department that you'll see in just a minute, which is our fair housing office, the furthering fair housing is one of the many communities and public services that these funds help promote.

But specifically tonight we want to appreciate and acknowledge some volunteers that have been helping us with our action plan process with these funds.

There's a very public process that we go through to gather the needs of the community and how we can utilize these funds, and the folks behind us have facilitated a lot of the public meetings that we have been -- we've been coordinating.

So with the mayor we'd like to thank -- we've got several folks, on behalf of the ending community homeless coalition ann howard, our executive director.

[Applause] ann howard.

[Laughter] took me a while to figure it out.

That's two certificates in there.

You get both of them?

>> I'm not sure.

>> Very nice.

We also have commissioner and geli carks.

Our department has two commissions we work closely works the community development commission obviously is the one that helps us with how we organize and distribute our funding and making sure that we're benefiting the needs of the community.

So we have commissioner noyola here to accept the certificate.

Hers is separate.

[Applause] angelica.

Angeli angeli ca.

Angelica.

>> Yes.

that's yours.

>> Thank you.

[Laughter]

>> we also have teresa more ran from the regional child protective services contract specialists from the texas department of family and protective services.

Congra congra tulations.

[Applause]

>> mike jianati from the branch chair of the texas branch of social worker, texas chapter.

[Applause] we'd never want to make it too easy for the mayor.

so gail is writhing in agony over there.

[Laughter]

>> not here but we certainly want to thank from the austin/travis county reentry roundtable sandra engena, and jerry hutchins, executive director.

All of these individuals and groups have worked very hard to allow us to come and do our community meetings.

Thank you again.

Thank you, mayor.

I don't think sandra eames is here.

I'll give those to you.

>> Can I ask for a picture with you -- we're all going to take individual pictures.

So we'll just go over here one at a time and take them.

[Applause] and on a related subject we're going to present a proclamation honk our fair housing -
- honoring our fair housing folks, actually the fair housing act of 1968 of which our various city departments do a lot of work to help implement for the benefit of everyone in the city of austin.

Be it known that whereas this year we commemorate the 44th anniversary of the signing of the fair housing act of 1968, its amendment in 1988, which provides safe, affordable housing as part of the american dream, and open that possibility to everyone regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, disability or familial status, and whereas, the city of austin is dedicated to being the best managed city and likewise to ensuring that all citizens receive equal treatment when buying or renting a home, and whereas, we encourage everyone to recognize the importance of fair housing practices, to continue the work, to change attitudes, to remove barriers that limit access and choice and to create equal opportunity in the austin community to live free from housing discrimination.

Now, therefore, i, lee leffingwell, mayor of the city of austin, texas, do hereby proclaim april 2012 as fair housing month in austin, texas.

And so we're going to have several people come up to accept this proclamation.

I believe first is our human resources director, mark washington.

Mark?

>> Thank you.

[Applause]

>> thank you, mayor.

It is our department that has the responsibility to enforce the fair housing and antidiscrimination laws on behalf of the city of austin, and we have our office at 1050 east 11th street and which we are able to hear if there are any kind of complaints from citizens about access to housing.

And the mayor highlighted earlier those areas of which people should not be discriminated based on race, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, gender or disability, but there's another area in which we also ensure that people have access to fair housing based on veteran status as well.

And to celebrate the culmination of fair housing month, we are going to have a conference on april the 30th at the mexican-american cultural center, and we will have representatives from department of hud and various speakers from different civil rights agencies to include our very own from our housing department, betsy spencer, to talk about making housing more accessible and not only affordable as we do in improving the quality of life.

So we'd like to thank you for that.

I'd also like to recognize our staff here from our equal employment fair housing department, carla scales, assistant director, enrique, our interim fair housing manager.

So thank you, and I think at this time betsy would like to have a brief word well.

[Applause]

>> in housing, obviously fair housing and affirmatively affirming fair housing is a huge part of what our department does.

All the housing we fund we want to ensure there's equal opportunity.

So a part of community development and affordable housing equal fair and equal treatment for folks.

So we are pleased to be a part of the conference on april 30 and we are pleased to be a part of this initiative.

thank you.

[Applause] so mark, since betsy already has one, you get one.

Do you want to take a picture?

so now we have a proclamation celebrating an event that's put on by one of my favorite groups, friends of barton springs which has done so much in the last few years to try to rehabilitate and improve barton springs pool.

As we know, it's getting kind of old, needs a little bit of work, and so we've been working on that project for several years now.

We could not have done it without this fine group of people who, incidentally, volunteer of their time and labor as well, and you have a cleaning day, what, every thursday?

>> Pretty regularly, yeah.

and i think that's an excellent day to have it.

That's a council meeting day.

[Laughter] just kidding.

I've actually participated in the barton springs pool cleaning several times and learned to operate that big machine that scrubs the bottom, very skillfully, if I do say so myself.

But now we're going to talk about something -- a fun event that has been planned by this group, and it is a treeathlon.

That's not -- I didn't mispronounce that.

It is a t-r-e-e-athlon in celebration of the barton springs pool environs, which as you know has a lot of heritage trees that we have tried very hard to protect and preserve over the last few years after we had a pretty good scare about three years ago.

So this event will be -- will follow the format of a triathlon and have a 26-mile run.

Now -- is that right?

26?

Slightly shorter run, and have a swim, of course, in the format of a triathlon, and to celebrate at the end they're going to have live music and a party.

So how can you beat that?

So lots of fun for everybody, a family event, urge everyone to come out for that.

And so we have a proclamation to honor, i believe it's the third annual event of this kind.

Be it known that whereas the friends of barton springs pool are sponsoring a fun triathlon-like event, triathlon like event to celebrate the sacred playground, barton springs, and help raise funds for pool-related project, and whereas tree-eighth leastathletes will swim across the pool.

>> Across the pool.

>> Not length-wise by across, a short loop, run a short course around the polo fields and end up at the zilker rock garden for refreshments and live music, and whereas organizers hope to introduce kids to the joys of barton springs pool, to educate families about the park and give kids a manageable triathlon experience during this family oriented event, and whereas the treeathlon expemple exemplifies healthy children, healthy planet following as it does near earth day this month.

Therefore, i, lee leffingwell, mayor of the city of austin, texas, hereby proclaim april 28, 2012 as the third annual barton springs pool treeathlon in austin, texas.

Congratulations to all of you.

Thank you very much for your work on this.

We appreciate what you do.

[Applause] so m cannatti will say a couple words.

>> Thank you very much, mayor.

We truly do appreciate your support and the city's support for the treeathlon.

This is a private sector fundraising effort to help supplement the city's support for the pool, including, we hope, having the pool bathhouse renovation project included on this bond election package.

This is a short he want, event, about a 50-yard swim, a quarter mile bike ride and half or quarter mile run.

Family, kids, we have kids come down, parents bring their kids and introduce them to the sport.

It is not a serious athletic competition.

Instead, it's a romp for the itty bitty, the-wise and everybody in between who has a passion for barton springs and enjoys watching our community of eccentrics running and walking and swimming around our playground, barton springs.

If you want to sign up go to friends of barton springs org and everyone who signs up and pays the entry fee will have a t-shirt.

We're going to have a tie died shirt this year.

We finally figured out we need a tie dyed shirt.

Go to barton springs.org.

[Applause] mayor, thank you.

>> Can I thank josh and jonathan who we conscripted to help us with the banner.

So we appreciate their help.

[Applause] we know that local businesses are the foundation of our economy, and we're here to announce go local week.

Please come up, guys.

This award is going to be accept by bob tuschak.

Did I say that right?

Tuschak?

Okay.

Good.

Bob tuschak, with go local, a promoter of the go local card that provides people with discounts at locally owned businesses, supports the local economy, stating locals stay local.

You're a champion of businesses which make our community unique and reward the people who support them.

So now we'll read your proclamation.

>> Thank you.

>> Cole: okay.

Be it known that whereas shopping at locally owned businesses keeps us five times more money circulating in our community as each purchase triggers purchases by others, creating more income, wealth and jobs.

And whereas go local has developed a loyalty card that rewards citizens and visitors to austin for shopping locally, thereby helping to preserve our distinct culture, food, music and history.

And whereas the go local austin card generates awareness of the need and benefit of shopping locally and positively impacts the financial well-being of local businesses so critical in today's economic climate.

And whereas, utilizing the go local card supports local businesses.

Now, therefore, i, lee leffingwell, mayor of the city of austin, do hereby proclaim april 22, 2012 as go local austin day.

Here you go.

>> Thank you.

[Applause]

>> hi.

It's like preaching to the choir but there's no choir.

[Laughter] hi, guys.

I wish I could read this.

You know, I think the best thing I could say is to read what's on the back of our card.

I hope I can still read it.

This card entitles me to exclusive offers every time I show it at one of my participating favorite go local businesses, but that's not all it does.

It also helps austin-owned companies compete with national chains and nurtures that curious and beautiful thing that makes our community so ours.

I'm proud to do my part to keep austin healthy and unique every time I use the card.

So this is something that we hope many people who have the card read and understand, that it's more than a mere discount or reward to shop locally, it changes their consciousness in some way, and we're very excited to be able to do this in the greatest city in america.

Thank you, mayor, and, gail, thanks for your help, and -- coal we'll take a picture.

>> And thank you for -- this could not be done without an amazing gang of four.

We're all, you know, walking that walk that supports local business, and are enriched by what we have found in austin and we hope that we have some marginal way of enriching the lives of those others.

Thanks very much.

>> Cole: thank you.

[Applause] to present a proclamation to -- on behalf of jazz appreciation month.

Are you coming down, guys?

To be accepted by fito kahn.

Fito kahn.

>> And paul.

>> And paul.

In april the austin jazz alliance shines the spotlight on extraordinary history of jazz and its importance in american culture.

Through concerts, lectures, films and other programs, aja encourages people of all ages to attend concerts, listen to jazz on radio and recordings, read books about jazz, study the music, and support jazz programs.

So now I'll read your proclamation.

Be it known that whereas the austin jazz alliance shines the spotlight on the extraordinary history of jazz and its importance to the american culture, and whereas through concerts, lectures, films and other programs, austin jazz alliance encourages people of all ages to attend concerts, listen to jazz on radio and recordings, read books about jazz, study the music and support institutional jazz programs.

And whereas, there is five -- there's live jazz happening almost every day of this month.

Visit the austin jazz alliance calendar to find out where.

Now, therefore, i, lee leffingwell, mayor of the city of austin, texas, do hereby claim april 2012 as jazz appreciation month.

Would you like to say a few words?

[Applause]

>> sure.

>> Thank you, mayor pro tem.

The austin jazz alliance is a grassroots organization that brings together jazz fans, jazz musicians, jazz venues, jazz-related businesses, and what we are all about is just supporting jazz in austin and helping jazz musicians make money playing jazz so that we can enjoy their music.

So we encourage everybody to visit the jazz alliance web site.

We've got a full calendar.

If you're interested in hearing jazz you can go to the calendar just about any day of the week you can find live jazz in austin.

So we enlarge you to go to the -- encourage you to go to the web site and sign up and also become a supporter so that we can bring more jazz to austin.

Our goal is to hopefully have a jazz festival in automatics.

Automatics -- austin.

We've got austin city limits and south by so we think jazz would be a wonderful addition.

I don't know if paul wants to say a few words.

Paul representing the jazz community.

Go ahead.

>> Just like to say on behalf of all the performers, composers, and educators in the jazz tradition here in austin, it's good to be part of the april recognition that's going on around the world, that april is jazz appreciation month around the world and austin is part of that.

[Applause],,