

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, Austinites in some neighborhoods have raised concerns regarding the development of large houses and duplexes, built under single family development regulations, for the purpose of housing six unrelated occupants in a single family neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, these properties sometimes have disproportionate impacts on neighborhoods in terms of nuisance violations such as over-occupancy, noise disturbances, overflow parking, and overflowing garbage cans; and

WHEREAS, the homes built for this type of use are often out of accordance with the character of the single family neighborhoods where they are located; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, occupancy limits for cities who impose them are often less than 4; and

WHEREAS, though neighbors of these high-occupancy single family properties, also known as “stealth dorms,” have reported their occupancy complaints to the City of Austin’s Code Compliance department, it is difficult to remedy these issues due in part to the City’s high occupancy limits; and

WHEREAS, the Codes and Ordinances subcommittee of the Planning Commission convened a stealth dorm working group beginning in June of 2013 consisting of representatives from the Austin Board of Realtors, the Austin Apartment Association, the Real Estate Council of Austin, the Austin Neighborhoods Council, the American Institute of Architects, representatives from impacted neighborhoods and Code Compliance; and

WHEREAS, that working group is in the process of preparing recommendations for presentation to the Codes and Ordinance subcommittee at their November 2013 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the working group could benefit from hearing the perspectives of additional stakeholders, including students; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The Council initiates a code amendment related to dwelling unit occupancy that will set the maximum number of unrelated adults who may reside in structures allowed on single-family zoned property at four and directs the City Manager to bring the ordinance back to Council on or before January 30, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Codes and Ordinances Stealth Dorm working group is requested to convene additional meetings with the purpose of incorporating feedback from additional stakeholders in its recommendations and to continue its review of issues related to stealth dorms and best practices for enforcement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

The City Manager is directed to support those additional meetings and to bring the recommendations to Council on or before March 31, 2014.

ADOPTED: _____, 2013 ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk