

**RESOLUTION NO. 20131212-083**

**WHEREAS**, City Council wishes to promote landscapes that incorporate sustainable design features, minimizing treated water use, reducing storm water runoff, enhancing infiltration, and reducing building energy use; and

**WHEREAS**, because some native and adaptive plants may prefer mineral aggregates that mimic their natural habitat, while others prefer organic mulches that hold more moisture, there could be appropriate, sustainable uses for aggregate materials in Austin's landscape; and

**WHEREAS**, mineral aggregates and plant-based mulches may reduce potable water consumption leading to water conservation and lower utility bills; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Resolution 20130523-078, the City Manager worked with stakeholders to review city code and criteria requirements regarding use of aggregate materials in lieu of plant-based mulch in commercial landscaping; and

**WHEREAS**, staff recommendations regarding code and criteria changes were provided by a Memorandum dated October 31, 2013 to Mayor and City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, Council wishes to initiate amendment of City Code Title 25 as required to achieve the staff recommendations; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

City Council initiates the Land Development Code amendment process for changes to City Code Title 25 necessary to allow commercial landscapes to use aggregate materials instead of plant-based mulch under circumstances

and conditions that will further the City's environmental and sustainability goals, to be presented to Council for consideration not later than June 26, 2014.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

City staff is encouraged to immediately process the criteria changes required to achieve the staff recommendations contained in the October 31, 2013 Memorandum to Mayor and Council, and shall report to City Council regarding the status of the criteria changes on or before February 10, 2014.

**ADOPTED:** December 12, 2013    **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk