

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, City Council adopted Resolution 20121213-064 stating that “the City of Austin values its small local business community and wants to continue to support both new and established businesses and their owners”; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2012, the City Council adopted a new rate ordinance, which applied demand charges to commercial customers with more than 10kW of demand; and

WHEREAS, on October 25, 2011, the Electric Utility Commission unanimously recommended that demand charges continue to apply only to commercial customers in excess of 20 kW of demand, and consumer advocates warned that demand charges would “hurt all nonprofits and houses of worship, and will hurt the smallest of those with low load factors disproportionately”; and

WHEREAS, since the rate increase, small business owners have been struggling with these new charges, and many have requested that the City Council reevaluate the impact of the demand charge on small businesses;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That the City Manager is directed to evaluate the impact on small businesses of the charge for electric demand above ten kilowatts, including conducting stakeholder meetings with small businesses, and to report back to the Electric Utility Commission and the City Council by August 7, 2014, with findings and potential policy options for minimizing the cost impact of the demand charge on customers having a demand of between ten and twenty kilowatts.

ADOPTED: _____

ATTEST: _____

Jannette Goodall
City Clerk