

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has made strides in promoting its widely recognized mantle as Live Music Capital of the World while balancing compatibility with the environment by mitigating sound impacts to nearby venues and neighborhoods within a “sound-shed” of a music source, to ensure quality of life for all; and

WHEREAS, Council Resolution 20130214-049 approved the recommendations contained in an Austin Music Commission November 5, 2012 resolution, and implemented these recommendations with Resolution 20130822-016 that created a permanent Music Venue Assistance Program to assist music venues in mitigating sound issues, and by enacting Ordinance 20130822-033 to create a “Good Neighbor” program and to clarify City Staff’s authority to provide realistic consequences for a violation of the Sound Impact Plan; and

WHEREAS, the November 5, 2012 Austin Music Commission resolution also called for other best practices that provide tools to manage sound and City Staff has continued its efforts to identify such tools; and

WHEREAS, during SXSW 2014, City Staff experimented with the use of the “C-weighting” for the decibel sound pressure level as an auxiliary measure, capturing a broader frequency range including bass levels, beyond the “A-weighting” for decibels currently called for in the City Code, which captures audible sound; and

WHEREAS, City Staff found that limiting the “C-weighting” at problematic outdoor sound sources abated sound impacts at nearby indoor venues that were experiencing reverberations, without significantly impacting the experience of the audience at the outdoor venues; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to work with the Austin Music Commission and stakeholders including live music venue proprietors and representatives of neighborhoods within the sound-shed of music venues to develop recommendations for incorporating the use of the “C-weighting” of decibels as an auxiliary measure in sound mitigation and measurement processes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to report to the City Council on these recommendations by August 8, 2014.

ADOPTED: _____, 2014

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk