

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan repeatedly states the need for a diversity of housing types to meet the housing needs of all Austinites, particularly near employment centers, transit routes, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has recently approved resolutions in support of reducing regulatory burdens on the development of micro units (20140327-040) and accessory dwelling units (20140612-062); and

WHEREAS, there is a growing movement of people who are interested in living in homes known as “tiny houses,” which are single-family detached homes that are generally less than 500 square feet in size and are often on wheels; and

WHEREAS, the tiny house community is a movement in favor of smaller spaces, making housing more flexible, affordable and sustainable, all of which are tenets of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, tiny houses may not be for everyone, but could provide one more option for the 34% of Austinites who live in single-person households, among others; and

WHEREAS, exploring existing barriers to tiny houses could help inform the ongoing CodeNext code revision process, which is expected to continue through 2017 or later; and

WHEREAS, there may currently be barriers in our Land Development Code, specifically the Zoning Code and Building Codes, that make tiny house development difficult or impractical; **NOW THEREFORE**

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

The City Manager is directed to identify obstacles to building, parking, and living in tiny houses, or single-family detached homes that are less than 500 square feet in size and are often on wheels, and report them back to Council by September 15, 2014, with recommended solutions to make them legal and viable.

ADOPTED: _____, 2014

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk