

RESOLUTION NO. 20140807-101

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 initiating code amendments aimed at 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 be simple code amendments that could be initiated in advance of the CodeNext code revision process in order to make progress on Key Finding 4 of the Code Diagnosis, Lack of Household Affordability and Choice; and

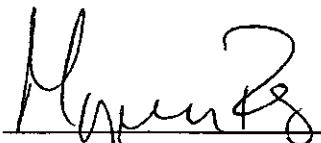
WHEREAS, there also may currently be barriers in our Land Development Code, specifically the Zoning Code and Building Codes, that make tiny house development difficult or impractical, inhibiting their development and access to this affordable type of housing; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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 October 1, 2014, with recommended solutions to make tiny houses legal and viable, including an assessment of the potential impact of any proposed code changes on neighborhoods and a recommendation regarding whether any of the proposed code changes should be considered in the CodeNext code revision process.

ADOPTED: August 7, 2014

ATTEST:

 For
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk