

RESOLUTION NO. 20141120-104

WHEREAS, the City of Austin seeks cost-effective partnerships that leverage private investments as well as public investment and services; and

WHEREAS, improvement districts are a public-private partnership tool used by Austin and many other cities to vitalize and increase services within a geographic area through sanitation, maintenance, public safety, hospitality, beautification, marketing, and business development; and

WHEREAS, Public Improvement Districts (PIDs) or Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) define an area in which businesses or property owners volunteer to pay an additional levy in order to fund increased levels of service or projects within their boundaries; and

WHEREAS, since the first improvement district was formed in Toronto in 1970, there are now thousands across the United States and many cities contain several independent districts; and

WHEREAS, in response to the January 1991 American Institute of Architects (AIA) Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team (R/UDAT) report that recommended a downtown improvement district, the downtown management organization, now known as the Downtown Austin Alliance, was formed to manage the Downtown Austin PID in April 1993; and

WHEREAS, in August of 2004 an East Sixth Street Public Improvement District was formed and in October 2014 the South Congress Preservation and Improvement District was formed; and

WHEREAS, other geographic areas with concentrations of local businesses or interested property owners may see value in forming an improvement district, and similar operating structures have been proposed to manage planned eco-districts; and

WHEREAS, cities have facilitated the formation of improvement districts by streamlining and publicizing their procedure, working to connect shared administrative services across improvement districts, and providing other forms of startup assistance; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin's Economic Development Department is exploring the use of Public Improvement Districts (PIDS) or Business Improvement Districts (BIDS) as a tool to support Merchants' Associations as part of an city-wide Commercial Revitalization Program; and

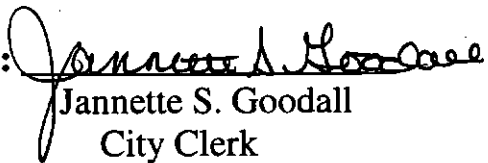
WHEREAS, an analysis of applicable city and state law may also highlight impediments to the formation of improvement districts that should be addressed; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to analyze national best practices and any impediments to the formation of improvement districts and to report on recommendations within 180 days.

ADOPTED: November 20, 2014

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk