## ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE CREATION OF THE REGIONAL AFFORDABILITY COMMITTEE, AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, AND APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF CITY REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE AS MEMBERS ON THE REGIONAL AFFORDABILITY COMMITTEE.

## BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN

## **PART 1. Findings.** The City Council finds that:

- (A) The City of Austin and the Central Texas region are experiencing an affordability crisis which impacts the ability of many to afford basic needs including food, housing, transportation, and health care, which significantly impacts quality of life for many residents.
- (B) Almost 23% of Austin residents are cost burdened, dedicating more than 30% of their net income to housing costs and almost 9% of Austin residents are severely cost burdened, dedicating more than 50% of their net income to housing costs.
- (C) A report published by the City of Austin in June 2013 titled *Market Trends* and *Issues for Affordable Housing in Austin* states that, "since 2001, nominal median household incomes in the Austin area have increased by only about 25 percent in while general inflation (represented by Consumer Price Index) has increased by roughly 35 percent. During that same period, median home prices have increased by 40 percent, and median rents have increased by 50 percent."
- (D) With new leadership at every level of local government, an unprecedented opportunity exists to improve communication and collaboration between governmental jurisdictions.
- (E) Currently there is limited coordination between taxing entities regarding proposals for bond measures, and providing a public meeting with representation from all local taxing jurisdictions would provide the public a convenient place to comment on all bond packages at once, and would facilitate a community wide conversation about what community values should be prioritized and the viability of bond measures prior to placement on the ballot.
- (F) Formal collaboration between every level of local government could identify opportunities to strengthen partnerships for improved service delivery and identify

existing duplication in services between agencies that could be streamlined for potential cost savings.

- (G) Affordability encompasses many factors including but not limited to housing, food, health care, education, transportation, and utilities, and a collaborative body that represents every level of local government could define parameters for what factors have a significant impact on cost of living, study best practices of other cities, counties, and school districts, and develop policy recommendations for all represented governmental entities to improve affordability in Austin and the Central Texas region.
- (H) Creating a Regional Affordability Committee (Committee) would provide expanded opportunity for transparency, public input, and collaboration between taxing jurisdictions and local leaders to improve how we serve to the community.
- **PART 2.** To ensure effective representation from throughout the Central Texas region, the Committee shall maintain positions for appointments by the participating governmental entities as follows:
  - (A) Austin City Council will be represented by three appointees
  - (B) Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees may be represented by two appointees
  - (C) Travis County Commissioners Court may be represented by two appointees
  - (D) Austin Community College Board of Trustees may represented by one appointee
  - (E) Capital Metropolitan Board of Directors may be represented by one appointee
  - (F) Central Health Board of Directors may be represented by one appointee
  - (G) Del Valle Independent School District Board of Trustees may be represented by one appointee
  - (H) Pflugerville Independent School District Board of Trustees may be represented by one appointee
  - (I) Williamson County Commissioners Court may be represented by one appointee.

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PART 11. This ordinar		on	
PASSED AND APPR		\$ \$ \$	Steve Adler
	M. Kennard Attorney	ATTEST:	Jannette S. Goodall City Clerk