

ORDINANCE NO. 20150129-022

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, child care, 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 be 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.

- (J) Round Rock Independent School District Board of Trustees may be represented by one appointee.
- (K) Leander Independent School District Board of Trustees may be represented by one appointee.

PART 3. Each entity represented on the Committee may select appointees by formal action of the respective bodies.

PART 4. The following persons are hereby appointed by the City Council to represent the City of Austin on the Committee: Council Member Delia Garza, Council Member Ann Kitchen, and Council Member Ellen Troxclair.

PART 5. The Committee may hold public meetings and may also take action to form working groups to address specific issues as needed.

PART 6. At its meetings, the Committee may solicit public feedback on and discuss: potential bond measures that may affect affordability in the Central Texas Region; opportunities to strengthen partnerships for improved service delivery; eliminating duplication in services between agencies for potential cost savings; parameters for assessing factors have a significant impact on cost of living; best practices of other cities, counties, and school districts; and any other relevant topics useful for maintaining and promoting affordability.

PART 7. The Committee may develop policy recommendations for all represented governmental entities to improve affordability in Austin and the Central Texas region and may take formal action to make recommendations to the governmental bodies represented on the Committee.

PART 8. The City Manager shall provide staff resources for the Committee as necessary and coordinate with staff from the other governmental jurisdictions represented on the Committee to obtain pertinent information on related items posted for discussion or action on Committee agendas.

PART 9. The activities and meetings of the Committee will be subject to applicable provisions of the Open Meetings Act.

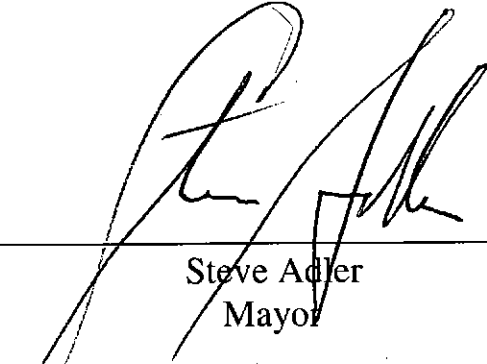
PART 10. The Committee shall adopt bylaws at their first publicly posted meeting.

PART 11. This ordinance takes effect on February 9, 2015.

PASSED AND APPROVED

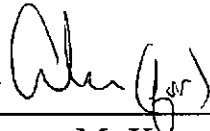
January 29, 2015

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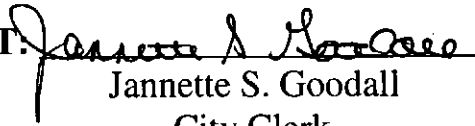
Steve Adler
Mayor

APPROVED:



Karen M. Kennard
City Attorney

ATTEST:



Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk