



Board and Commission Council Committee Agenda Item Request

Name of Board or Commission: Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Request Number: 20160309-3c(i)

Description of item: The Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) recommends that Austin City Council seek an independent 3rd party audit of the Austin Resource Recovery department

Board or Commission Vote to refer item to Council: 10-0-0-1, Commissioner Jiampietro absent

Date of Approval of Request: March 9, 2016

Attachments: ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list the attachments: RECOMMENDATION 20160309-3c(i)

Attest:

Signature of Board/Commission Chair or Staff Liaison

MAYOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY

Council Committee Assigned:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ☒ Audit & Finance | ☐ Housing & Community Development | ☐ Planning & Neighborhood |
| ☐ AE Utility Oversight | ☐ Mobility | ☐ Public Safety |
| ☐ Economic Opportunity | ☐ Open Space, Environment & Sustainability | ☐ Public Utilities |
| ☐ Health & Human Services | | |

Recommend a Fiscal Analysis be completed?

Recommend a Legal Analysis be completed?

Notes:

PLEASE SEE ASSOCIATED REFERRAL

Mayor Signature & Date:

3/22/16



**ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION 20160309-3ci**

Date: March 9, 2016

Subject: Independent 3rd party audit of the Austin Resource Recovery department

Motioned By: Heather-Nicole Hoffman

Seconded By: Kendra Bones

Recommendation: The Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) recommends that Austin City Council seek an independent 3rd party audit of the Austin Resource Recovery department

Rationale: WHEREAS, the Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) unanimously passed a recommendation to seek an independent, 3rd party audit of the Austin Resource Recovery department on January 13, 2016, and;

WHEREAS, A ZWAC working group was formed to review ARR departmental efficiencies, and;

WHEREAS, per ZWAC bylaws, ARR staff time and energy cannot be accessed by the ZWAC working group, and;

WHEREAS, although raw data is available to the public and to ZWAC, staff analysis would most likely be needed to clarify in layman's terms, and;

WHEREAS, although the Austin City Council adopted a formal review process through the untested Office of Performance Management, the ZWAC sees this process as supplemental to the 3rd party, independently contracted audit agreed upon by the Commission, and;

WHEREAS, landfill diversion rates are not improving at the necessary pace to achieve the city's Zero Waste goals on the timeline in the Master Plan, and;

WHEREAS, the city is introducing a new program for residential organics collection and processing, and;

WHEREAS, there is broad concern around new city programs impacting affordability.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) recommends immediate Council approval for an independent, 3rd party audit of the Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) department with an expedited timeline in order to utilize the results for the FY16-17 budget process. It is recommended that the ARR audit process should not only include financial analysis, but gauge personnel satisfaction within the department and shall provide suggestions to increase diversion rates.

Vote

For: 10 - Unanimous

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1 - Jeff Jampietro

Attest: (Staff or board member can sign)