

RESOLUTION NO. 20170202-040

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is a national leader in building codes designed to encourage energy efficient and sustainable building design; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin set a Zero Energy Capable Homes Initiative (Resolution No. 20071018-036) for new single-family homes; and

WHEREAS, Austin Energy's Green Building Program fosters the design and construction of sustainable and efficient buildings; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2016, the City of Austin adopted a new Energy Code based on the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC); and

WHEREAS, the Austin Energy Resource, Generation, and Climate Protection Plan set long-term goals for energy efficiency, demand reduction, and local solar, including a minimum of 200 MW of local solar by 2025, as approved by the City Council on December 11, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the IECC includes Appendix RB, which, if adopted by a local jurisdiction, requires new homes and townhouses to be "solar-ready"; and

WHEREAS, several other jurisdictions, including the City of Houston, City of Lewisville, State of California and City of Seattle, have recently adopted solar-ready requirements for homes, townhouses, and/or commercial buildings; and

WHEREAS, both the Resource Management Commission (Recommendation No. 20160621-005) and the Electric Utility Commission (Recommendation No. 20160620-006) recommended adoption of solar-ready requirements; and

WHEREAS, adoption of solar-ready amendments would help encourage compliance with the City of Austin's Zero Energy Capable Homes Initiative and with Austin Energy's 2025 local solar goal; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

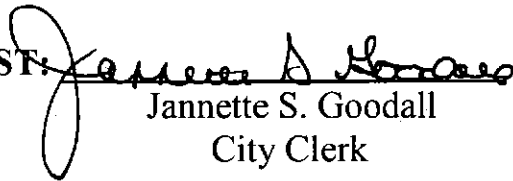
The City Council initiates an amendment to the Energy Code (City Code Chapter 25-12, Article 12) to require that new residential and commercial buildings are constructed to be solar-ready beginning October 1, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

As part of the above process, the City Manager shall solicit recommendations from the appropriate boards, commissions and city departments with regard to these potential ordinance changes and to recommend any alternatives or other best practices or considerations they suggest City Council consider.

ADOPTED: February 2, 2017

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk