



## MEMORANDUM

\*\*\*\*\*

**TO:** Patricia Seeger, Chair  
Codes and Ordinances Joint Committee Members

**FROM:** Mark Walters, Planning and Zoning Department

**DATE:** September 11, 2018

**RE:** Small Area Planning Joint Committee Positive Recommendation to Revise the  
Definition of Mirrored Glass in 25-1-21(67)

\*\*\*\*\*

At their August 22, 2018 special called meeting the Small Area Planning Joint Committee voted (4-0) to recommend their support for the initiation of a code amendment to revise the definition of “mirrored glass” in 25-1-21(67).

The code amendment request stemmed from discussions concerning a variance to the Waterfront Overlay Combining District section 25-2-721(E)(1) pertaining to the prohibition of mirrored glass or glare producing glass surface building materials for the 70 Rainey Street project. The Committee recommended that the Planning Commission grant the variance.

During discussions amongst themselves and with the applicant’s architect, engineer, and attorneys, the Committee members discussed the fittingness of the current “mirrored glass” definition of “...glass with a reflectivity index greater than 20 percent.” The current definition dates from the mid/late 1980s and does not reflect changes in best practices and advances in building materials technology.

Should the amendment be initiated, the Committee’s requested that the amendment process consider:

- Building efficiency standards
- Best practices
- Existing conditions in Austin.

**CC:** James Shieh, Chair  
Small Area Planning Joint Committee Members