

RESOLUTION

City Council & City Manager,

Whereas, the members of the Austin Board of Adjustment (“BOA”), feel that fees have increased to a point that most families in the City have been priced out of the ability to have their due process rights met at our Board.

Whereas, the Board of Adjustment would like to give a fair hearing to all citizens that believe they deserve a special exception to, or a hardship variance from, the land development code; and

Whereas, unfortunately, today’s fee structure represents more than 5% of the 60% median family income for four person households, and the BOA would prefer to see a significantly lower fee, so that families experiencing issues with our complex land development code can come to our board for relief; and

Whereas, a large number of our cases lately have been for issues related to commercial development and large home/real estate developers instead of homes of working or middle class neighborhoods; and

Whereas, in the past the City has applied different fees for residential and commercial cases; and

Whereas, fees for Board of Adjustments redress in the surrounding metropolitan areas such as San Antonio, Houston and Dallas range from \$400.00 to \$1,200.00; and

Whereas, the desire is that the City Council and City Manager will support significantly amended fees for the Board of Adjustments in which the Board fully understands that the current fee structure was intended to reflect the actual cost of services provided by staff within the City; and

Whereas, the staff that serves the BOA provides exemplary customer service and board support duties, and our city should be proud of the professionalism and knowledge provided by its staff to residents; and

Whereas, the BOA would like to be clear that any reductions in fees should not result in changes to staffing, rather, that the BOA and the staff provide a public good that should be provided by and supported with tax dollars collected by the city, rather than wholly paid for by applicants, therefore, be it

Resolved That the Board of Adjustment hereby respectfully requests that the application fees be amended as follows:

- Residential Variance \$500.00
- Commercial Variance (including Commercial Multi-Family) \$3,230.24
- Residential Special Exception \$500.00
- Commercial Special Exception (including Commercial Multi-Family) \$2,459.60
- Sign Variance – Commercial \$3,230.24

Respectfully Submitted City of Austin Board of Adjustment