

RESOLUTION NO. 041007-48

WHEREAS, East Austin has historically been an economically disadvantaged area of the City, and an economic development program for East Austin may help to revitalize the area's economy and improve the economic circumstances of East Austin residents; and

WHEREAS, the City has undertaken several initiatives to improve the economic vitality of East Austin; and

WHEREAS, recent public and private investments (such as the 11th/12th Street Redevelopment and the Pedernales Lofts Projects) and planning initiatives (such the East 7th Street Corridor and the Saltillo District Redevelopment Projects) have made East Austin more attractive for private development; and

WHEREAS, the possible approval of the Commuter Rail Referendum in November could further increase the potential for redevelopment in East Austin along the rail corridor; and

WHEREAS, the increasing attractiveness of East Austin for private development may place residents of the area at greater risk from the effects of gentrification; and

WHEREAS, Capital Metro has initiated a public community input process as part of their future redevelopment of the Saltillo District in an effort to build a new rail line and station that maintains the character of the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, gentrification is defined as the process by which higher income households displace lower income residents of a neighborhood, changing the essential character and flavor of that neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the City developed a Gentrification Committee in 2001 and a Gentrification Task Force in 2003 to help document the problem and identify strategies to address the problem; and

WHEREAS, the development of affordable housing has been identified as a concrete strategy for curbing gentrification; and

WHEREAS, the City has made the development of affordable housing in East Austin a priority through: partnerships with non-profit community development corporations and private developers; the use of surplus city-owned land for affordable housing development; and the purchase of individual lots in various parts of East Austin and large tracts of land in Montopolis and Colony Park for affordable housing development; and

WHEREAS, the City has also prioritized the development of neighborhood plans for East Austin in order to ensure that new development is compatible with existing neighborhoods and that the existing neighborhood character is maintained; and

WHEREAS, a carefully considered economic development program for East Austin may accomplish several goals, including creation of jobs and investment in East Austin, while including components that offset potential unintended side effects of economic growth in East Austin by mitigating increased expenses for homeowners, and by promoting affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, the designation of part of East Austin as a Community Preservation & Revitalization (CP&R) Zone has been proposed as a way of encouraging economic growth in East Austin in a way that is sensitive to the economic needs and the character of the surrounding neighborhoods; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Council directs the City Manager to facilitate public input on the proposal for the creation of a CP&R Zone Program and, based on the input received, make recommendations for implementation of such a program to the City Council within 90 days; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Council directs the City Manager to seek input on the proposal for the creation of a CP&R Zone program from the Community Development Commission, to provide relevant information and data to the Commission to aid in their deliberation, and to assist the Commission in facilitating public hearings and public discussions on the proposal.

ADOPTED: October 7, 2004

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Brown
City Clerk