

RESOLUTION NO. 20050609-041

WHEREAS, a 1996 report by American Forests estimated that Austin's urban forest benefits the community by \$133 million a year, and these benefits in air quality, water quality and energy conservation are part of the public trust and accrue to every citizen; and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that to replace the trees being removed each year, by various means, would cost \$10 million a year; and

WHEREAS, the region is implementing actions to stay in attainment under the Federal Clean Air Act for ground level ozone; and

WHEREAS, trees are both excellent pollution removers for pollutants such as ozone and small particulates, and reduce global warming by sequestering carbon; and

WHEREAS, downtown trees cool the urban heat island, increase energy efficiency and contribute to a walkable, livable downtown; and

WHEREAS, the City Council authorized a Heat Island Initiative study to identify areas for improvement in Urban Forest Management and Sustainability and the study authored by Garcia Design and Henry Gilmore, "Analysis of COA Tree Preservation and Landscape Ordinances, November 2004," has been performed; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

That the City Council directs the City Manager to initiate the public stakeholders and staff input process necessary to incorporate into the City Code the recommendations of the study with specific focus on the following executive summary items:

Item 1. Report reference C.1. and C.2. Modify the tree removal mitigation rules to compensate for tree canopy loss in a more predictable and easily calculated way, and to use tree canopy coverage (in lieu of caliper inches) as a basis for establishing tree replacement and preservation thresholds.

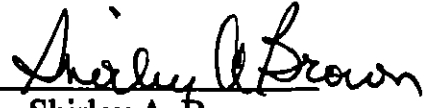
Item 2. Report reference B.3.1.(A) Provide guidelines for single family subdivisions regarding tree replacement and preservation of large 100-300 year old trees.

Item 3. Report reference A.3. Modify the large parking lot design option from the current three module option to a two module option for parking lots exceeding 200 spaces.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That an ordinance incorporating the recommendations be brought back to the City Council for consideration within six months.

ADOPTED: June 9, 2005

ATTEST: 
Shirley A. Brown
City Clerk