



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Ray Baray, Chief of Staff

DATE: June 26, 2015

SUBJECT: Status Update Regarding Resolution No. 20141002-042

The purpose of this memo is to update you on staff's progress in responding to Resolution No. 20141002-042 ("Resolution"), which directs the City Manager to initiate code amendments that define "private party" as well as to create a permit process for private parties. It also directs the City Manager to process these amendments and to bring them forward for Council consideration. Finally, it directs the City Manager to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to provide input on the proposed amendments and to work with the appropriate staff on any other recommendations related to private parties.

Background

Resolution No. 20141002-042 originated in response to neighborhood complaints involving parties sponsored by Greek letter organizations (i.e. "fraternities" or "sororities") in the West Campus area near the University of Texas (UT). Because of the increasing incidence of overcrowding, underage drinking and excessively loud music, City Council approved the resolution in an effort to provide a regulatory framework that promotes safety and improved compliance with City regulation governing private parties and events.

After the adoption of the Resolution, staff from the Austin Center for Events (ACE) held a stakeholder meeting on February 25, 2015 at the University of Texas campus. Only five people attended that meeting. Due to the limited amount of public input that was received, staff has tried to schedule a follow-up meeting, but has found it difficult to come up with an agreed upon date and time with the various UT and neighborhood stakeholders. Staff is presently pursuing a meeting in Fall 2015, when student representatives of the Greek organizations return to school.

In the meantime, staff is focusing on identifying possible Code amendments that will balance reasonable nightlife with quality of life considerations. It is staff's goal to have recommendations submitted for Council consideration by December 2015.

In the meantime, should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Bill Manno, Corporate Special Events Manager, at (512) 974-2110 or via email at William.Manno@austintexas.gov. Thank you!

cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager

Bill Manno, Corporate Special Events Manager