

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is an international organization whose mission includes developing and advocating for scientifically based consensus codes and standards thereby reducing the burden of fire and other hazards on quality of life; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the NFPA established NFPA 1710 Standard that includes methods of fire protection and prevention to establish safeguards against loss of life and property due to fire; and

WHEREAS, a critical aspect of NFPA 1710 Standard is the minimum number of firefighters required per fire apparatus for safe, effective and efficient fire suppression; and

WHEREAS, in response to the establishment of this standard the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 382 (77th Regular Legislative Session, 2001) that referenced NFPA standards as guidelines for minimum personnel operating at emergency incidents; and

WHEREAS, Council Resolution 20010614-97 recognized a national standard of four firefighters per fire fighting apparatus and adopted Task Force Staffing to be implemented January 1, 2002; and

WHEREAS, Task Force Staffing was defined as the following: each single engine company station staffed with four firefighters and each multiple

company station (Engine and Ladder, Engine and Rescue Unit or Quint) staffed with six firefighters.

WHEREAS, budget considerations and constraints have pushed back achievement of full Task Force Staffing and the City of Austin still has not reached this standard nearly a decade after its passage; and

WHEREAS, the federal government created the SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations in order to help them increase the number of trained, "front-line" firefighters available in their communities so that local governments can comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by NFPA and OSHA; and

WHEREAS, previous iterations of the SAFER Grant required a maintenance of authorized strength once SAFER Grants were awarded creating a budgetary liability for local governments in years subsequent to the award of the grant; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 SAFER Grant does not require a maintenance of authorized strength and allows local governments to adjust the number of firefighters in the out years of the SAFER Grant to address budget considerations; and

WHEREAS, the deadline has been extended for the 2009 SAFER Grant

to January 15, 2010, and to date, the City of Austin has not applied for the grant; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Manager is hereby directed to take all necessary steps to complete and submit the 2009 SAFER Grant application by January 15, 2010, with the goal of securing the requisite funds to achieve full four person staffing once grant monies are accepted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;

That, in the time between application and award of the SAFER Grant, the City Manager is directed to conduct a fiscal analysis of potential impact to the City of Austin should a grant be awarded and present to Council for action prior to formal acceptance of a potential award.

ADOPTED:_____, 2010 **ATTEST:**_____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk