

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council		Item ID	50856	Agenda Number	49.
Meeting Date:	10/15/2015			Department:	Austin Code Department
Subject					
Approve an ordinance amending Title 2 of the City Code to create a reasonable accommodations process.					
Amount and Source of Funding					
Fiscal Note					
A fiscal not is not required.					
Purchasing Language:					
Prior Council Action:	Resolution No. 20130808-049				
For More Information:	Carl Smart, Director, 512.974.1970 or Patricia Link, Attorney Senior, 512.974.2173				
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	Community Development Commission: No recommendation from the Commission. (June 30, 2015) Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities: Recommended the draft ordinance 9-0 (motion made by Commissioner Hair, second by Commissioner Marshall) (Commissioner Trejo absent) (August 10, 2015) Health and Human Services Council Committee: September 16, 2015: Committee recommended (September 16, 2015).				
MBE / WBE:					
Related Items:					
Additional Backup Information					
<p>The federal Fair Housing Act requires a municipality to grant reasonable accommodations to its rules, ordinances, regulations, and policies. An accommodation is a change or exception to a rule, ordinance, regulation, or policy. A requested accommodation is reasonable when it is necessary to ensure that an individual with a disability has an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling. The draft ordinance creates a process for City staff to grant reasonable accommodations that are required by the federal Fair Housing Act.</p> <p>The draft ordinance includes the process to make a request for a reasonable accommodation, the time period for staff to make a decision on the request, and an appeals process.</p> <p>Based on requests from the Council Committee meeting, the following changes were made to the draft ordinance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Clarification that assistance includes transcribing verbal requests for a reasonable accommodation into a written request (the same clarification was added to the appeals process).(2) Modified the 20 business day requirement for staff to issue a written decision on a request or appeal to 30 calendar days. <p>Staff can respond to a request or an appeal prior to the 30-day deadline. The purpose of the deadline is to ensure that an eligible individual knows the outcome of a request or appeal in a timely manner. If time is an issue staff can handle administratively. As a result, a deadline based on an emergency is not necessary.</p> <p>The updated draft ordinance states that assistance includes transcribing a verbal request into a written request, which addresses requests made by phone.</p>					