



COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: December 14, 2015

Agenda Item #:8

Recommendation regarding code changes for Chapter 2-1 relating to the African American Resource Advisory Commission

Vote

3-1 with Council Member Troxclair voting against [Committee members are Mayor Pro Tem Tovo (chair), Council Member Troxclair (vice-chair), Council Member Renteria, and Council Member Pool]

Sponsors/Department:

Office of the City Clerk

Summary of Discussion

Jannette Goodall, City Clerk, presented the code changes for Chapter 2-1 relating to the African American Resources Advisory Commission.

Commissioner Michael Lee spoke in favor of reducing membership to 11 members. Commissioner Nelson Lindor spoke in favor of Council making community-based organization appointments and against eliminating the six community-based members from the Commission. Greg Smith, President of the Austin Revitalization Authority, asked the Committee not to advance the proposal to change membership of the Commission to the full Council. Former Mayor Pro Tem Sheryl Cole spoke in favor of the Council directly appointing community-based organizations' members.

Council Member Ora Houston suggested that the membership be reduced to 15, with seats for four specific organizations – Austin Area Urban League, Black Chamber of Commerce, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Austin Revitalization Authority.

Council members asked questions regarding membership levels, quorum requirements, and the ability of Council to appoint members directly.

Council Member Pool moved to change the ordinance so that the community-based organization appointments go directly to Council and to reduce the membership by 1 member, eliminating one community based organization membership. This motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tovo. Motion failed with 2-1 with Vice Chair Troxclair opposed and Council Member Renteria abstaining.

Council Member Renteria moved to recommend to Council a change to the 2006 ordinance such that the full Council will appoint members to the Commission based on recommendations from the four community-based organizations included in the ordinance. Vice Chair Troxclair seconded. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Council Member Pool moved to recommend to Council a change to the ordinance to allow for a 2/3 quorum at meetings where only a quorum is present. Mayor Pro Tem Tovo seconded. The motion passed with a 3-1 vote with Vice Chair Troxclair opposed.

Direction

The motions were forwarded to the full Council for consideration.

Recommendation:

A motion to recommend to council a change the 2006 ordinance such that the full Council will appoint members to the Commission based on recommendations from the four community-based organizations included in the ordinance passed with Council Member Renteria's motion, Vice Chair Troxclair's second on a 4-0 vote.

A motion to recommend to Council a change to the ordinance to allow for a 2/3 quorum at meetings where exactly a quorum is present passed with Council Member Pool's motion, Mayor Pro Tem Tovo's second on a 3-1 vote with Vice Chair Troxclair opposed.