

WHEREAS,

City of Austin Boards and Commissions are an important tool for citizen oversight of government operations, and,

WHEREAS,

Many City of Austin Boards and Commissions have vacant positions because of the difficulty of attracting qualified members, and,

WHEREAS,

Teleconferencing is a recognized option for city meetings, and,

WHEREAS,

The Texas Open Meetings Act specifically allows teleconferencing, and,

WHEREAS,

The City of Austin ordinance requires the physical presence of members at Boards and Commission meetings,

THEREFORE, THE COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
RECOMMENDS

The City Manager allocate resources to create a group with the goal of revising the City ordinance prohibiting members of Boards and Commissions from using technology to participate remotely in meetings. This group would be composed of, at a minimum, representatives of the Legal Department, CTM, and the City Clerk's Office.