

## STATEMENT REGARDING AUSTIN CODENEXT

BY

AUSTIN QUICK SERVICE RESTAURANT GROUP

### Who we are:

The Austin Quick Service Restaurant Group is a collection of local quick service (fast food) restaurant franchisees, and occasionally other local restaurants and quick stop convenience stores. As stakeholders in the Austin business and civic community, we meet to monitor, discuss, and participate in City of Austin government initiatives; most recently including Revised Building Design Standards, Universal Recycling Ordinance, East Riverside Corridor Plan, Austin/Travis County Community Health Improvement Plan, and the CodeNEXT rewrite of the Austin Land Development Code.

Most of our membership is made up of local family owned business operating for more that 40 years. As a group our Quick Service businesses employ many thousands of Austinites, most of them minorities. A large percentage of these associates work their way up quickly into management positions. They continue up the ladder to become Store Managers and into top executive management. These associates, Managers, and executives stay with us for years and decades, often working their way into ownership participation. They raise the generations of their families and put their children through college. The principals of our Quick Service businesses contribute substantially to local Austin charities and civic causes.

Quick Service Restaurants provide their customers low cost meals, with healthy choices available. Nutritional information is available; and the evolution of even wider choices of healthy menu options continues apace. It is unreasonable to single out Quick Service Restaurants regarding menu choices. Essentially these same food choices are also available at every other food establishment in the community - from food trailers to sit-down/table-cloth restaurants to grocery stores. Everywhere, individuals must make informed choices.

Our Quick Service business model is compatible to operate successfully when our patrons access our products and services via all modes of transportation; walk-up, bicycle, public transportation, and of course private automobile. All our customers are important to us however they choose to access our businesses; but the greatest volumes choose to come and go via private automobile. Drive-thru windows often account for more than 60% of an individual quick service restaurant location's total sales volume. Local quick service restaurant franchise businesses have grown with Austin over the decades; and collected sales tax, paid property tax, paid City utility bills, and paid City license fees in such a large amount as to be indispensable to the financial viability of Austin.

### Our Position on CodeNEXT:

- 1) The CodeNEXT rewrite of the Austin Land Development Code should not be used as a tool to negatively affect the existing viability or organic growth of the quick service restaurant businesses in the City.

- 2) Drive-thru windows should not be excluded; not for quick service restaurants, or banks, or cleaners, or pharmacies, or for any other business in Austin that has the demand of its customers for private automobile drive thru access.
- 3) The CodeNEXT rewrite should foster easier access to businesses via walking, bicycling, and public transportation. But fostering easier access to our quick service restaurants or other businesses with drive thru windows via these forms of travel should not be achieved by making access inconvenient or even unavailable via drive thru windows by private automobile.
- 4) The Austin Quick Service Restaurant Group asks to continue to be included as a constructive participant in relevant CodeNEXT stakeholder groups and meetings.

**The Austin Quick Service Restaurant Group**

**May 14, 2014**

**McDonalds; Allen Benton**

**Becky Benton Russell**

**Mike Benton**

**Jimmy Fergusson**

**Winston Ross**

**German Ustariz**

**Sonic; Jerry Conway**

**John Patton**

**Tacala; Dwayne Kostiha**

**Whataburger; Art Chavarria**

**James Turcotte**

**Contact: Cis Myers, 512.422.7635, [cister41@att.net](mailto:cister41@att.net)**