



RESOLUTION OF THE AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOODS RESOLUTION ON THE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS

WHEREAS, the City of Austin in 2008 consented to have 4 neighborhood advisors but only has just two neighborhood advisors employed in the Neighborhood Assistance Center, part of the Planning and Zoning Department, to assist over 200 neighborhoods throughout the City; and,

WHEREAS, the City's population has increased 23.5% since 2008 and less than 40% of the City currently has a neighborhood plan; and,

WHEREAS, neighborhoods throughout the City need help developing new and maintaining existing neighborhood plans; and,

WHEREAS, CodeNEXT will produce new zoning districts and land development code that will affect every neighborhood and all neighborhood plans in the City; and,

WHEREAS, the City will need additional neighborhood advisors to help neighborhoods implement the new zoning districts and land development code produced by CodeNEXT, and to assist neighborhoods with the neighborhood planning process; and,

WHEREAS, neighborhood services such as neighborhood planning, community engagement, neighborhood partnering, historic preservation, and community gardening are dispersed throughout various City departments; and,

WHEREAS, consolidating neighborhood services into one department could increase the efficiency and effectiveness of neighborhood services; and,

WHEREAS, other large cities like Seattle, Portland, Fort Worth, Houston, and Phoenix have a neighborhood department focused specifically on neighborhood services.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Austin Neighborhoods Council hereby urges the City Council to direct the City Manager to:

1. Consolidate existing neighborhood services into a new Department of Neighborhoods.
2. Increase the number of neighborhood advisors, based on the City's current population, to help neighborhoods access and utilize neighborhood services.

Presented to the ANC Executive Committee: July 13, 2016

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