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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dave Sullivan, Chair, and Members of the Planning Commission

FROM: Robert Heil
Planning and Development Review Department

DATE: October 19, 2011

RE: Initiation of Proposed Code Amendments

At its last meeting on October 18, 2011, the Codes and Ordinances Committee of the Planning Commission recommended that the Planning Commission direct staff to initiate the following amendments to the City of Austin Land Development Code.

If Planning Commission does direct staff to initiate these proposed amendments, staff would commence research, review and the drafting of the proposed code amendments. Each of these proposed code amendments would then be presented to the Codes and Ordinances Committee for review and comment, and if recommended by the committee, forwarded on the full Planning Commission for public hearing and action.

At this point, the only recommended action is initiation of the code amendments. This action would not be a recommendation on any of the proposed amendments, only a direction that staff prepare them for consideration by the full commission.

The following proposed three code amendments have been recommended for initiation:

1. **Residential Design and Compatibility Standards** – Discussion and possible action to initiate an amendment related to the “McMansion” ordinance, correcting errors in the existing code, specifically, errors related to the measurement of floor area.
2. **Land Uses in DMU** – Discussion and possible action to initiate an amendment related individual land uses in the Downtown Mixed Use base zoning district
3. **Group Residential “Stealth Dorms”** – Discussion and possible action to initiate an amendment related to group residential uses in single family zoned districts, aka “stealth dorms”, specifically, the appropriateness of existing occupancy standards and the methods by which these standards are enforced.