

RESOLUTION NO. 20111107

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Commission was established to serve as an advisory body to the City Council on all budgetary and policy matters concerning public safety, including matters related to the Austin Police Department, the Austin Fire Department, and the Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services Department; and

WHEREAS, the Commission shall make recommendations on matters related to long-range planning of public safety departments, departmental budgets, coordination of comprehensive planning initiatives, access to and expenditure of state and federal grant funds, and other related public safety matters; and

WHEREAS, based on City of Austin Police Department statistics related to auto thefts for over two years, keys were used to steal the vehicle in 37% of offenses. In 2.2% of auto thefts, the vehicle was left running with keys in the ignition; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes the Austin Police Department's Auto Theft Interdiction Project Unit has utilized existing laws in the Texas Penal Code, Occupations Code, Transportation Code and other existing laws to investigate and reduce auto theft; and

WHEREAS, Texas Transportation Code §545.404 (*Unattended Motor Vehicle*) provides one mechanism for reducing auto thefts involving unattended motor vehicles with keys left in the vehicle, but only when such vehicles are left unattended on public streets or highways; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes that the Austin Police Department is proposing the adoption of a City Ordinance that would prohibit a person from stopping, standing, or parking a motor vehicle that is unattended upon any street or

highway, or on public or private property accessible to the public, with the engine running or key in the ignition; and

WHEREAS, information presented to the Commission makes clear that such an ordinance would provide the Austin Police Department with an additional mechanism for reducing auto thefts involving unattended motor vehicles with keys left in the vehicle or the engine running, **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION:

The Public Safety Commission recommends that City Council approve an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 12-1 to add a new section 12-1-36, relating to unattended motor vehicles on any street or highway, or on public or private property accessible to the public, with the engine running or key in the ignition, and creating an offense.

ADOPTED: _____, 2011

ATTEST: _____

Leander Davila
Support Staff Liaison