

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

Austin City Council	<b>Item ID</b>	15311	<b>Agenda Number</b>	8.
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<b>Meeting Date:</b>	5/24/2012	<b>Department:</b>	City Clerk's Office
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**Subject**

Authorize the city clerk to terminate the campaign treasurer appointments of inactive candidates and inactive political committees.

**Amount and Source of Funding**

**Fiscal Note**

<b>Purchasing Language:</b>	
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<b>Prior Council Action:</b>	On March 8, 2012 Council approved Ordinance No. 20120308-003 to permit this process.
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<b>For More Information:</b>	Shirley Gentry, 974-2210
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<b>Boards and Commission Action:</b>	
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<b>MBE / WBE:</b>	
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<b>Related Items:</b>	
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**Additional Backup Information**

This item takes advantage of Sec. 252.0131 of the Texas Election Code, which allows filing authorities to purge inactive campaign treasurer appointments. It is routinely done by the Texas Ethics Commission for state-level filers. On March 8, 2012 Council voted to enact §2-2-8 of the City Code to permit this process.

People who become candidates or form political committees may not be aware that state campaign finance law imposes ongoing filing requirements as long as a campaign treasurer appointment is on file. Deleting inactive appointments will protect the candidates and political committees from additional liability for potential fines that can build up over time. Inactive filings are also confusing to the public.

Letters were sent to each affected candidate and political committee on April 3, 2012 advising them of the proposed termination of the appointed campaign treasurer and offering them an opportunity to object to or offer comments regarding the termination.