

**RESOLUTION NO. 20120524-096**

**WHEREAS**, due in part to a robust and growing economy, Austin's population grew by thousands over the past 12 months, making it among the fastest growing metropolitan statistical areas in the nation;

**WHEREAS**, the resulting growth has significantly increased occupancy rates citywide, which has directly impacted the majority of Austin citizens who rent their homes by driving up the cost of rents; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to reducing the availability of housing, increased growth over the past year has resulted in significant backlogs in construction permitting and increased turn around time for permit review; and

**WHEREAS**, small local businesses suffer disproportionate losses due to the complexity and difficulty in navigating the backlogs in the permitting process; and

**WHEREAS**, the creation of pilot programs focused on local businesses to immediately "test run" temporary strategies aimed at relieving the bottlenecks may be useful; and

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

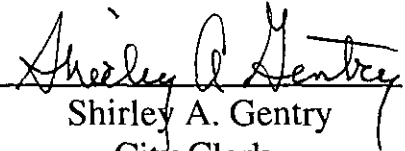
The city manager is directed to:

1. locate significant bottlenecks in the City's permit review process, including but not limited to the Austin Fire Department's Emergency Prevention Services, Transportation Department, Watershed Protection Department and the Planning & Development Review Department's commercial plan review process;

2. develop proposed strategies to eliminate these bottlenecks without compromising enforcement of public safety codes or the consistency of development with City zoning regulations;
  - a. these strategies should include, but not be limited to, options for hiring new full time employees, recommendations on hiring a third-party reviewer to help the department get on schedule, and ways to synchronize what are now separate review procedures to make the overall process more efficient and timely; and
3. present a recommendation at the City Council's June 14, 2012 meeting.

**ADOPTED:** May 24, 2012

**ATTEST:**

  
Shirley A. Gentry  
City Clerk