

RESOLUTION NO. 20130214-051

WHEREAS, Austin's success in becoming the "most livable city in the nation" depends upon quality and timely development for its growing populations and economy; and

WHEREAS, enabling quality development in a timely manner contributes to minimizing development and financing costs; and

WHEREAS, minimizing development costs provides opportunity to meet affordable housing demands that improve the overall quality of life and contributes to a vibrant urban fabric throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 20121206-67 directed the City Manager to provide a report to Council on the Planning and Development Review Department's permit application backlog; and

WHEREAS, the City's Planning and Development Review Department reported to Council a backlog of 625 unprocessed applications as of January 2, 2013; and

WHEREAS, this level of backlog translates to a minimum of 8 weeks beyond Code mandated review periods; and

WHEREAS, the department indicates long-term actions under consideration such as hiring a consultant to review policies and procedures for efficiency, acquisition of software to improve performance and appropriation of CIP revenue to support upgrades of the AMANDA application for online services; and

WHEREAS, Austin's Transportation Department recently benefitted from a peer review of the City's regional transit plan by a delegation of transit executives from peer U.S. cities; and

WHEREAS, Austin's Planning and Development Review Department might also benefit from a similar peer review of its residential permit processes by planning and management executives from peer U.S. cities prior to initiation of long-term actions or expenditures; and

WHEREAS, a peer review process could be flexibly structured without impeding the resources currently needed to address the existing backlog of unprocessed applications via an organized delegation meeting, group teleconference summit, or individual solicitations of best practices as is determined to provide the most effective and productive benefit; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

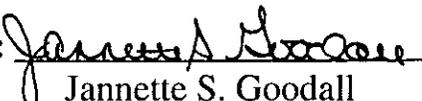
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to utilize a peer review process to identify best practices of peer U.S. city planning departments relating to residential permit review and to solicit recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to estimate a completion date and report on peer city support to Council within thirty days, ensuring the schedule does not impede current efforts to clear the backlog of permits under review.

ADOPTED: February 14, 2013

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk