

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, Austin is home to more than 40 local cooperative businesses with hundreds of thousands of member owners; and

WHEREAS, cooperatives are rooted in the local economy and support more than 2500 quality living wage jobs in Central Texas in credit unions, utilities, wholesale and retail food and groceries, hardware, affordable housing, artistic production, cleaning services, schools, a brew pub, a radio station, and more; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly Resolution 64/136 proclaimed the year 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC), with a theme of “Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World”; and

WHEREAS, the UN Resolution recognized that cooperatives promote the fullest participation in the economic and social development of all people and are becoming a major factor of economic and social development and contribute to the eradication of poverty; and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan calls for “promoting the formation of worker-owned and community-owned businesses (co-ops) that sell local products”; and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan also calls on the City of Austin to “Investigate the feasibility of creating a program of city-owned housing including but not limited to cooperative, affordable, and permanent supportive housing;” and

WHEREAS, Austin has been identified as the pilot city for the National Cooperative Business Association to launch the first regional cooperative trade association, the Austin Cooperative Business Association; **NOW THEREFORE**,

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

The Austin City Council supports the development and growth of cooperative businesses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to convene stakeholders to develop recommendations that detail ways the city can promote the development of new and existing cooperative businesses, and to report to the MBE/WBE and Small Business Council Committee for discussion prior to reporting to City Council by August 28, 2014.

ADOPTED: _____, 2014 **ATTEST:** _____

Jannette Goodall
City Clerk