

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, House Bill 2008, passed in 2001 by the 77th Texas Legislature, amended the Texas Health and Safety Code, Subtitle C, Title 5, Chapter 385, to require the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to establish voluntary guidelines for indoor air quality in government buildings; and

WHEREAS, on December 22, 2002, the DSHS Voluntary Indoor Air Quality Guidelines for Government Buildings went into effect; and

WHEREAS, Section 297.8 of the DSHS Voluntary Indoor Air Quality Guidelines states that the room temperature for a typical occupied office or classroom environment should be kept between 72 to 76 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Facilities Commission (TFC) has implemented several energy conservation initiatives including a temperature adjustment standard that thermostat settings for buildings during occupied times be set at 75 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer, and buildings with an automation system be adjusted to 85 degrees Fahrenheit at night; and

WHEREAS, to create a thermally comfortable environment, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) recommends temperatures be set between a range of 73-79 degrees Fahrenheit; and

WHEREAS, Austin Energy advises residential and business customers that “For every degree you lower your thermostat, you increase your bill by 3 to 4 percent”; and NOW, THEREFORE,

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

The City Council adopts a policy to promote energy conservation and directs the City Manager to establish a standard for thermostat settings for cooling during summer months in all City office buildings that meets or exceeds the Texas Facilities Commission standard, except in those justifiable circumstances when doing so would be operationally impractical.

Additionally, the City Council directs the City Manager to report back to City Council by October 15, 2014 on the newly adopted standard, including any exceptions adopted by the City Manager.

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

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

DRAFT