

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	37262	Agenda Number	14.
Meeting Date:	11/6/2014		Department:	Economic Development
Subject				
Approve an ordinance setting the assessment rate and approving a proposed 2015 assessment roll for the Austin Downtown Public Improvement District. Related to Items # 15 and # 70.				
Amount and Source of Funding				
The 2015 assessment rate of \$0.10/\$100 valuation is estimated to produce \$3,887,724 at a 96% collection rate.				
Fiscal Note				
There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:	October 11, 2012 – Council reauthorized the Austin Downtown PID and authorized negotiation and execution of a new management contract with the Downtown Austin Alliance.			
For More Information:	Kevin Johns, Director, Economic Development Department, 974-7802; Michael Knox, Downtown Officer, Economic Development Department, 974-6415; Gregory Miller, Attorney, Law, 974-2918			
Boards and Commission Action:				
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				

Additional Backup Information

The Austin Downtown Public Improvement District (PID) encompasses an area of approximately 750 acres, from I-35 westward to San Antonio Street, and from Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to south of Lady Bird Lake. The PID was created by Council April 15, 1993 to provide constant and permanent funding to implement certain downtown initiatives. Since then the City has maintained a contract with the Downtown Austin Alliance to manage the Downtown PID.

This action will approve the proposed Austin Downtown Public Improvement District assessment rate and proposed roll for 2015. Approval of the proposed roll is necessary so that notices may be sent to the property owners, giving them an opportunity to review the property valuations prior to the public hearing. All previously approved exemptions and exclusions from assessments are retained in this year's roll. State law requires Council approval of a proposed roll. Council requested that this assessment process be timed so that it coincides with the receipt of other tax bills.

A related item sets a public hearing on Thursday, November 20, 2014 to consider the 2015 assessments for the Austin Downtown PID. State law requires a public hearing by Council to consider the proposed assessments. Each property owner has a right to appear at the hearing. The Downtown Austin Alliance submitted a 2015-2016 budget for the PID in the amount of \$4,136,678. This amount includes \$3,887,724 in 2015 assessments (at a 96% collection rate), \$22, 523 in collections from 2014; \$76,431 interest accrued in the PID Account and late payments; and \$150,000 annual contribution from the City of Austin (\$75,000 Austin Convention Center Fund, and \$75,000 in the Water & Wastewater Utility Fund). Approval of the proposed PID budget and the ordinance adopting an assessment rate and proposed assessment roll are the first steps in the annual process of approving PID assessments.