

# Council Committee Agenda Item Referral

Council Member or Executive Sponsor: **Mayor and Council**

**Description of Item:**

Proposed amendments to City Code Chapters 15-2 and 15-9 relating to the drainage charge

**Actions taken to date:**

At the April 15, 2015 Public Utilities Committee, committee members requested that staff provide options on how the drainage charge could be allocated based on the square footage of each tenant and sent it to Council for a Public Hearing.

At the May 21, 2015 Council meeting, the Council conducted a Public hearing on an ordinance amending City Code Chapters 15-2 and 15-9 relating to the drainage charge. Council voted to send Item #52 related to the drainage fee back to the Public Utilities Committee to answer additional questions detailed below in Notes.

**NOTES:**

The following issues (without limitation) should be addressed by the committee:

1. The preferred methodology for calculating the drainage fees, including the following considerations:

- the factor applied for % of impervious cover (beyond the actual amount of impervious cover);
- Imagine Austin goals that encourage compact & connected development with smaller lots and higher % of impervious cover;
- how to account for developments (like Mueller) that cluster development, providing more open space and shared water quality features;
- need to address the site-specific and/or regional value of innovative green infrastructure/water catchment/infiltration installations on properties of any type.

2. Staff recommendation to discontinue discounts for installed water quality treatment facilities and ponds (like at Freescale).

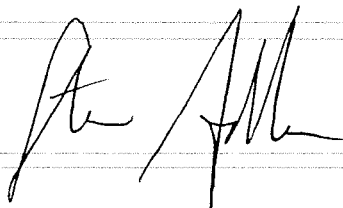
3. Implementation of the drainage fee changes needs to address affordability issues for certain populations:

- the potential for unplanned, relatively large increases for elderly and others on fixed incomes living in single family homes;
- concerns about preventing pass-through charges to renters even though the owner is billed;
- impact on renters who currently use the Customer Assistance (CAP) program for help with their utility bill, who will no longer receive a drainage fee bill.

**Council Committee Assigned:**

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audit and Finance                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility Committee                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Austin Energy Oversight Committee           | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space, Environment and Sustainability Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Opportunity Committee              | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning and Neighborhoods Committee                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Human Services Committee         | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety Committee                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing and Community Development Committee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Committee                |

Mayor Signature & Date:



6/10/15

