



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Joint Sustainability Committee

Recommendation Number: (20160727-04B)

Energy Code Enforcement: Budget Recommendation

WHEREAS, the Austin Community Climate Plan's Buildings and Integrated Efficiency action 11 calls for education of code inspectors and plan reviewers to gain higher compliance with new energy codes as they are implemented; and

WHEREAS, reducing energy use in buildings is the most cost-effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Development Services Department currently lacks sufficient staff to thoroughly review all review all building permit applications in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, because of staffing limitations, review of building plans for compliance with the Energy Code is not currently done by a dedicated reviewer, but rather by the mechanical/electrical/plumbing reviewer; and

WHEREAS, because each inspector is responsible for 20-30 inspections per day, there is not typically time to fully visually inspect buildings to ensure compliance with the Energy Code, especially because addressing safety issues is the top priority; and

WHEREAS, the Development Services Department leadership agree that dedicated inspectors at least spot check buildings for compliance with the Energy Code would be valuable and would relieve some burden from current inspectors; and

WHEREAS, reducing energy use in buildings improves affordability for residents and business owners;

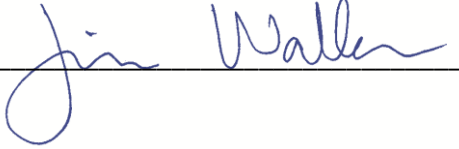
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Joint Sustainability Committee recommends that the Austin City Council approve at least 3 additional inspectors, beyond those requested in the proposed FY 2017 budget, to be solely dedicated to enforcement of the Energy Code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Sustainability Committee recommends that the Development Services Department develop a staffing plan and present it in the FY 2018 budget proposal that will allow for complete enforcement, in both the permit review and inspection phases of the Energy Code.

Date of Approval: July 27, 2016

Record of the vote: Unanimous on an 8-0 vote

Attest: _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Walker", is written over a horizontal line.