

PASSIVE HOUSE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Austin's original 2007 Climate Protection Resolution 20070215-023 set a goal for the city to implement the most energy efficient building codes in the the nation; and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2015 Austin City Council passed resolution 20150604-048 which established the framework for the Austin Climate Protection Plan (ACPP) and established the goal of implementing the most energy efficient building codes and aggressively pursuing energy efficient retrofits; and

WHEREAS, pollution and allergens have been linked to a reduction in children's cognitive functioning, and Austin's interior and exterior air quality is bad and worsening; and

WHEREAS, according to the Austin Climate Protection Plan, 53% of Austin's greenhouse gas emissions are produced by the city's built environment; and

WHEREAS, the international Passive House standard has been shown to produce building energy consumption reductions of up to 90% over conventional code-built structures, produces superior interior air quality, and is now minimum code in European Union cities such as Frankfurt and Brussels; and

WHEREAS, Austin City Council resolution 20140410-024, references the climate reduction strategies of peer cities such as Seattle and Portland, the climate protection plans of cities such as New York have already embraced Passive House as a cornerstone of their carbon reduction strategies for both new buildings as well as existing structures; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has the duty to exercise climate and health leadership when it comes to the construction and retrofitting of city sponsored or permitted affordable housing;

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Community Development Commission recommends that the Austin City Council:

- require Passive House certification for all new affordable housing development.
- initiative a process culminating in the eventual adoption of the Passive House standard as minimum code for all new construction.
- Initiate a study evaluating Austin's multifamily affordable housing buildings, including public housing, for the potential energy savings benefits of retrofitting them to the Passive House standard.