



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20170110-05b

Date: January 11, 2017

Subject: Passive House and Affordable Housing Recommendation

Motioned By: Commissioner Tolliver

Seconded By: Commissioner Zamora

Recommendation

The Community Development Commission recommends that the Austin City Council:

- Study Passive House certification for all new affordable housing development.
- Initiate a study evaluating Austin's multifamily affordable housing buildings, including public housing, for the potential energy savings benefits of retrofitting.

Description of Recommendation to Council

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:

- Study Passive House certification for all new affordable housing development.
- Initiate a study evaluating Austin's multifamily affordable housing buildings, including public housing, for the potential energy savings benefits of retrofitting.

Rationale: N/A

Record of the Vote: 9-1-3

For: Chair Rivera, Vice Chair Deshotel and Commissioners Fadelu, McGhee, Paup, Tolliver, Zamora, Singer and A. Villalobos

Against: Commissioner Hinely

Abstain: Commissioners McHorse, Taylor and R. Villalobos

Absent: Commissioner Dailey

Attest: [CDC Liaison, Lisa G. Rodriguez]

