

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, because of staffing limitations, the Development Services Department 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 ensuring building safety is the top priority; and

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

WHEREAS, Austin Community Climate Plan buildings and integrated efficiency (BIE) action number 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, reducing energy use in buildings improves affordability for residents and business owners; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Sustainability Committee recommended that additional dedicated staff be provided to enforce the Energy Code; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council directs the City Manager to determine the number of dedicated plan reviewers and inspectors needed to fully enforce the energy code for residential and commercial buildings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council directs the City Manager to provide staffing options to enhance energy code enforcement for residential and commercial buildings and to present these options to City Council no later than the March 1, 2017, budget discussion.

ADOPTED: _____, 2017

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk