




## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Kevin Johns, Director  
Economic Development Department 

**DATE:** April 12, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Public Comments and Additional Information Concerning Proposed Agreement with Merck Sharp & Dohme Corporation

As you are aware, a public hearing and consideration of an economic development agreement with Merck Sharp & Dohme Corporation (Merck) are on Thursday's City Council agenda. In order to assist you, background information and working documents can be found on our website at [www.austintexas.gov/ecodev](http://www.austintexas.gov/ecodev).

In keeping with the City of Austin process for the review of economic development proposals, attached please find the comments received on the Economic Development Department's website from the public regarding the proposed agreement with Merck. As stated during the presentation on Thursday, April 6, the public was able to submit comments through online forms from Friday, March 31 through Tuesday, April 11. Nine comments were received during this time period and are provided for your review in the attached spreadsheet.

As you may recall, several questions were asked at the April 6<sup>th</sup> City Council briefing regarding the potential Merck IT Hub locating in Austin. The company responded by providing staff insight into their selection process and practices. Responses to the items you have requested are attached.

In proudly keeping with our tradition for transparency in project investments, our department has been ranked at the top of Washington, DC-based nonprofit watchdog [Good Jobs First 2017 and 2015 rankings](#).

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at (512) 974-7802 or the Global Business Expansion Manager, David Colligan at (512) 974-6381.

xc: Elaine Hart, Interim City Manager  
Greg Canally, Interim Chief Financial Officer  
David Colligan, Global Business Expansion Manager, EDD