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2016-17  
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Jeff Cohen

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April 12, 2017

To: City of Austin, Visitors Impact Task Force

We write to announce that the Board of Directors of Austin History Center Association (AHCA) has unanimously approved support for the four Hotel Occupancy Tax Use Recommendations presented at the March 28, 2017 Task Force Meeting by the Coalition of Parks Organizations.

Austin History Center Association is an independent nonprofit organization, founded in 1980, that works to promote and provide community support to the Austin History Center of the Austin Public Library.

Therefore, we especially support the recommendation to "Create a new 'Parks & Historic Preservation Tourism Fund' to repair and improve qualifying city park and historic assets."

AHCA is proud of the Austin History Center's longstanding partnership to support the initiatives of the Austin Visitors and Convention Bureau. The Austin History Center is already a destination site for visitors to Austin. As the Austin History Center plans to expand to the John Henry Faulk Building when it becomes available after the new Austin Central Library opens – we expect that the Austin History Campus will grow as a destination site for tourists and visitors.

We will always advocate now that Hotel Tax Funds be strongly considered as a future potential source of Management and Operations funding for Austin History Center.

AHCA is proud to have joined with the Coalition of Parks Organizations in support of their four recommendations, per the VITF charge in Resolution No. 20160818-075.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

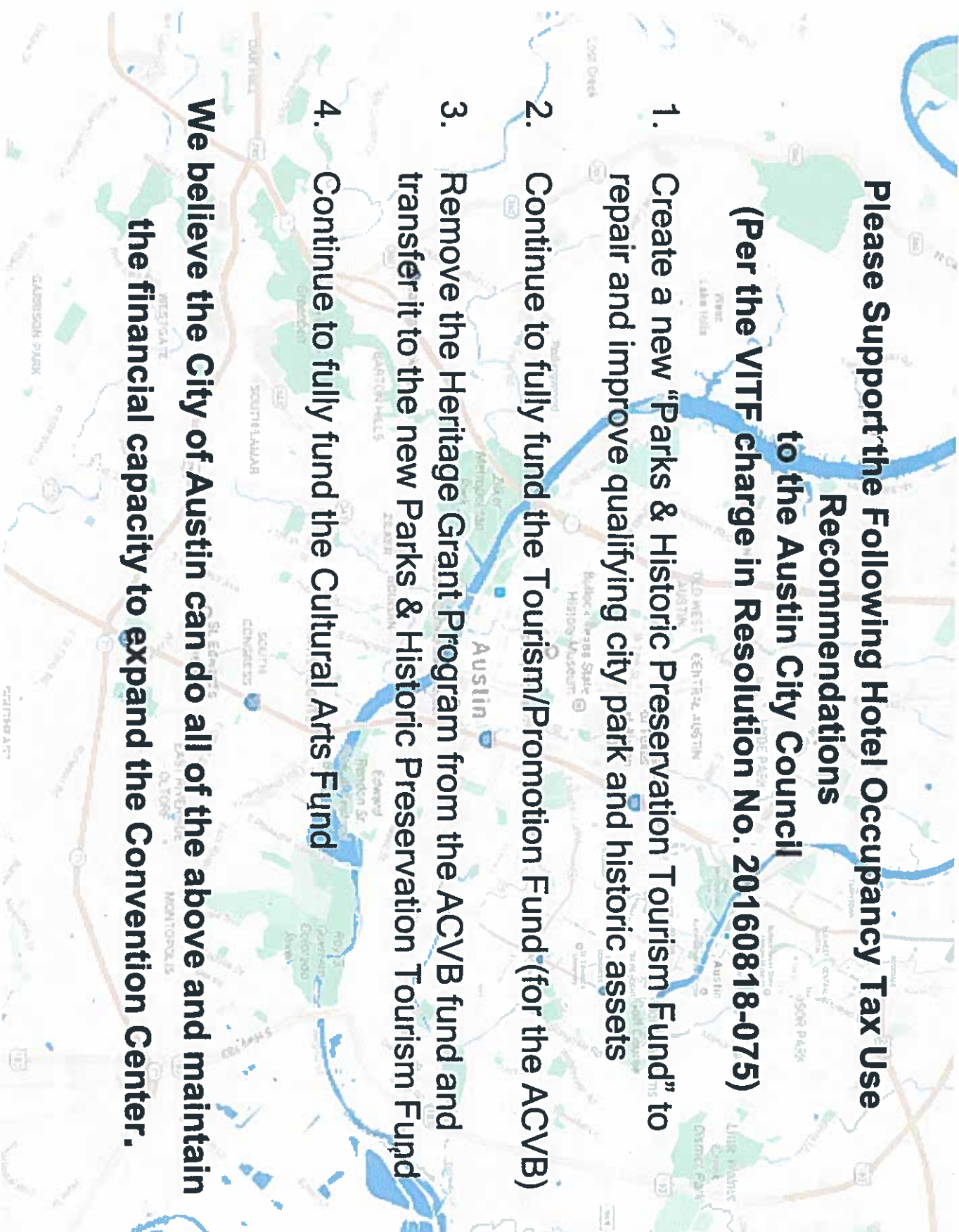


Charles Betts  
President, Board of Directors  
Austin History Center Association

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*AHCA is 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization (Federal EIN #74-2177595) that supports the Austin History Center (AHC), which is an outstanding division of the Austin Public Library. As the City of Austin archives, the AHC collects, processes, and preserves both official and community archives for posterity.*

A map of Austin, Texas, showing the city's layout, major roads, and parks. The map is oriented vertically on the page. The city name 'Austin' is clearly visible in the center. Various landmarks and parks are labeled, including Barton Hills, Zilker Park, and the Convention Center. The map is overlaid with a grid of streets and highways.

**Please Support the Following Hotel Occupancy Tax Use Recommendations to the Austin City Council**

**(Per the VITF charge in Resolution No. 20160818-075)**

1. Create a new "Parks & Historic Preservation Tourism Fund" to repair and improve qualifying city park and historic assets
2. Continue to fully fund the Tourism/Promotion Fund (for the ACVB)
3. Remove the Heritage Grant Program from the ACVB fund and transfer it to the new Parks & Historic Preservation Tourism Fund
4. Continue to fully fund the Cultural Arts Fund

**We believe the City of Austin can do all of the above and maintain the financial capacity to expand the Convention Center.**



**AUSTIN  
PARKS  
FOUNDATION**



*Barton Springs*  
CONSERVANCY



**SHOAL  
CREEK  
CONSERVANCY**

*Hill Country*  
CONSERVANCY  
HERE FOREVER



**UMLAUF**  
sculpture  
garden  
& museum



**The Trail  
Foundation**



**Waller Creek  
Conservancy**



**Austin History Center  
ASSOCIATION**

**THANK YOU!**