

RESOLUTION NO. 20120524-089

WHEREAS, following the completion of the 2012 South by Southwest Music Festival, the City of Austin Music Commission began a series of hearings examining the effectiveness of the City's handling of the multiple permit types associated with temporary, special events; and

WHEREAS, prior to the Music Commission's actions, City staff had begun an internal process of reviewing and revising operations with respect to special events and has begun to implement changes based on internal review and conversation; and

WHEREAS, the Music Commission determined that there was no single, publicized point of contact, nor a single responsible department or office for event organizers and interested parties to engage to obtain permit information and approval for temporary and special events creating confusion and distrust from affected parties; and

WHEREAS, feedback from industry stakeholders also found that there was: no scalability in permitting based on size of an event; multiple requirements were found in multiple sections of the City Code

creating confusion; no global checklist to ensure completeness in permitting; no ability to begin the permitting process online; and the Temporary Use Permit process operated outside of other traditional permitting processes; and

WHEREAS, the Music Commission recommended that Council direct the City Manager to create an interdepartmental special events team responsible for acting as a one-stop shop for special events; and

WHEREAS, the creation of such a team has the potential to streamline and consolidate planning efforts for multiple events throughout the year and provide a higher level of service to both producers and the public; and

WHEREAS, a team such as this would be best led by City staff who have direct knowledge and experience producing special events or working toward the production of special events at the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, different from ensuring that there is a reduction in hazards and code violations as is the function of the Public Assembly

Code Enforcement team, a special events team would be focused on the holistic success of an event from conception to permitting to day-of compliance; and

WHEREAS, a retooling of the City's approach would promote both the safety and the success of special events, and would be in the best interest of the entire community; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to create a special events team, based on best practices from peer cities nationwide and responsive to concerns addressed through the Music Commission, that would act as a one-stop shop for special events within the City that can be operational starting in fiscal year 2012-2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Manager is directed to identify any budgetary, ordinance, or staffing changes that would be necessary to implement the creation of a special events team and provide the necessary amendments; and

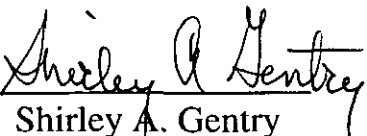
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Manager is directed to incorporate within that team, representatives from all departments

and divisions that would be responsible for some level of approval including but not limited to: Transportation Department, Special Events Office/EGRSO, Music Office, Austin Police Department, Austin Fire Department, Planning and Development Review Department, Code Compliance, and Health and Human Services Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that once a team structure has been formulated, the structure, authority and plan for implementation, including potential ordinance amendments, be brought back before the Music Commission for recommendation and public comment prior to review, comment, and approval from the City Council.

ADOPTED: May 24, 2012

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk