

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, Austin is a member of the Texas Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (“TXSWANA”) along with many other cities across the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, TXSWANA's experience with other member states with the Solid Waste Association of North America (“SWANA”) indicated that current Texas law does not adequately protect the health and safety of those individuals employed by municipalities for the collection of solid waste and recycling materials; and

WHEREAS, in recent years SWANA enacted a campaign known as the “Slow Down to Get Around Campaign” to raise awareness of safety issues for collectors of solid waste and recyclables, and have endorsed legislation in its member states to address this safety issue; and

WHEREAS, “Slow Down to Get Around” (“SDTGA”) is also the name commonly applied to legislation that requires motorists to slow down or move over when passing waste and recycling vehicles that are in the process of collection. Since the start of the campaign, at least twenty states have enacted some type of SDTGA law to help protect solid waste workers out on the job; and

WHEREAS, the City supports efforts proposed by TXSWANA to modify Texas law to increase safety for solid waste workers and its own employees.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS, THAT:

The City supports these legislative reforms endorsed by TXSWANA to increase safety for collectors of solid waste and recyclables:

- Amend existing Texas law requiring motorists to slow down if approaching flashing lights on certain stationary vehicles, for example emergency or construction vehicles, to include waste and recycling vehicles
- Specifically, amend Chapter 545 of the Texas Transportation Code to require motorists to slow down, safely change lanes if possible and operate with due caution around waste and recycling trucks when safety lights are flashing, similar to cautions motorists must now exercise when passing a stopped emergency vehicle, tow truck, or certain TXDOT vehicles

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT:

A copy of the resolution shall be sent to the elected lawmakers representing the City's interests in the Texas House and Senate and to the legal counsel of TXSWANA.

DRAFT