

**CITY OF AUSTIN  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION  
DELEGATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY WITH TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND REGULATORY  
AFFAIRS AND AUSTIN RESOURCE RECOVERY**

**COUNCIL DATE: 05/24/2019**

**SUBJECT:**

Approve a resolution that declares retired computer equipment (computing devices) from the City of Austin to be surplus property and authorizes disposal of the property to maximize reuse.

**MBE/WBE:** N/A

**LEAD DEPARTMENT:**

Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs.

**FISCAL NOTE:**

No Fiscal Note Required.

**PURCHASING/LEGAL:**

N/A

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:**

N/A

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Inquiries should be directed to  
Rondella M. Hawkins, TARA Officer, 512-974-2422

**BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION:** April 10, 2019 – To be reviewed by the Zero Waste Advisory Commission February 13, 2019 - Recommended unanimously by the Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission on an 6-0 vote, with Commissioners DasGupta, Newell, Tao, and Yanez absent and one vacancy.

**ADDITIONAL BACKUP INFORMATION (RCA BODY)**

The City of Austin's Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan, as adopted by Resolution No. 20141120-074, includes every Austin resident having an opportunity to be fully engaged in digital society, accessing and using digital and communications technology; and the Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs, (TARA), is the lead office for implementation and achieves initiatives referenced in the Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan to promote device refurbishment programs to provide inexpensive devices to low-income residents and grant opportunities to keep devices and trainings up-to-date.

In 2017, TARA partnered with the Communications & Technology Management Department (CTM) on a pilot program to divert selected retired City computers from the Austin Resource Recovery Todd Lane Facility to TARA's operations at the Arthur B. DeWitty Center. This program refurbishes and distributes retired city computers to non-profits that provide a public benefit of connectivity, access and opportunity in accordance with the City's Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan. Under the pilot program, the computers are loaned to non-profits who have applied and been approved for the computers to serve their clients and organizational needs. Delegated Surplus Property authority is needed to fully transfer ownership of the devices.

As part of the pilot, over 700 refurbished City computers have been configured and distributed to non-profits to serve clients including: Austin Independent School District - Sanchez Elementary School, Austin Speech Labs, American Youthworks, Austin Free-Net, Child Inc., El Buen Samaritano, Foundation Communities Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, Housing Authority of the City of Austin, and the Literacy Coalition of Central Texas and PCs for People.

Organizations apply for computers through the City's Grant for Technology Opportunities Program, with applications due in December for the annual grant cycle. The Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs) is a grant administered by TARA's Digital Inclusion Program to improve the community's ability to fully participate in the digital society. GTOPs offers individual grants of \$10,000 to \$25,000. The City has also secured a Microsoft Registered Refurbisher certification which

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authorizes it to install the Microsoft Windows 10 Operating System and Office 2010, upon request by recipient organizations, at a cost of \$6 per license to the recipient non-profit.

The refurbished computers have been fully depreciated from the City's capital equipment inventory, but final disposal of the equipment by transfer of ownership to the approved applying organizations requires Council approval as provided in this resolution. Staff recommends Council approval of the resolution.