
From: Cohen, Jessica - BC <BC-Jessica.Cohen@austintexas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 1:25 PM
To: Alexander, Jason <Jason.Alexander@austintexas.gov>; Shaw, Todd - BC <BC-Todd.Shaw@austintexas.gov>; Ramirez, Nadia - BC <BC-Nadia.Ramirez@austintexas.gov>
Cc: Lucas, Denise <Denise.Lucas@austintexas.gov>; Truelove, Rosie <Rosie.Truelove@austintexas.gov>; Moore, Andrew <Andrew.Moore@austintexas.gov>; Rivera, Andrew <Andrew.Rivera@austintexas.gov>; Ramirez, Elaine <Elaine.Ramirez@austintexas.gov>; Hawthorne, Melissa Whaley - BC <bc-MelissaWhaley.Hawthorne@austintexas.gov>; Kiolbassa, Jolene - BC <bc-Jolene.Kiolbassa@austintexas.gov>; Hempel, Claire - BC <BC-Claire.Hempel@austintexas.gov>
Subject: Re: Invitation to Meet, re: Permitting & Development Center

Good Afternoon Mr. Alexander,

I'm going to have to decline your invitation to tour the PDC. Like many of my fellow Austinites from district 3, leaving work to attend a meeting at noon on a weekday would require me to take PTO. Board members and commissioners already donate considerable time to serving their city and that time expenditure is tripled for those elected to serve as chair. With the holiday season almost upon us, it's not feasible for me at this time.

I'd like to add that offering a tour of the facility, while a nice gesture, doesn't address our concerns about the lack of equity, accessibility, transparency, and public input the majority of us on the sovereign boards agree are significant problems with the proposed move. Instead, I propose a special called joint meeting of the Board of Adjustment, Planning Commission, and Zoning and Platting Commission at Austin City Hall. The week of November 29th is the fifth week of the month which should allow for easy booking of the main chamber in the evening. I believe it would be appropriate if the city manager, an ex-officio member of the Planning Commission like myself, were there to discuss the issues the PDC creates for holding hearings and meetings.

Once you have a confirmed date, I'll work with our liaison to communicate time and agenda items with the BoA members.

Respectfully,

Jessica Cohen

Chair

Board of Adjustment

From: Alexander, Jason <Jason.Alexander@austintexas.gov>

Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 3:08 PM

To: Kiolbassa, Jolene - BC <bc-Jolene.Kiolbassa@austintexas.gov>; Shaw, Todd - BC <BC-Todd.Shaw@austintexas.gov>; Cohen, Jessica - BC <BC-Jessica.Cohen@austintexas.gov>

Cc: Lucas, Denise <Denise.Lucas@austintexas.gov>; Truelove, Rosie <Rosie.Truelove@austintexas.gov>; Moore, Andrew <Andrew.Moore@austintexas.gov>; Rivera, Andrew <Andrew.Rivera@austintexas.gov>

Subject: Invitation to Meet, re: Permitting & Development Center

Chairs Kiolbassa, Shaw, and Cohen

Good afternoon. I hope this email finds all of you well. My name is Jason Alexander – I am the Assistant to the City Manager, and I wanted to take this opportunity to reach out on behalf of our office and those of Denise Lucas and Rosie Truelove, Directors of the Development Services and Housing & Planning Departments, respectively. We have been made aware of your concerns related to the Manager’s decision to have all land use boards and commissions begin conducting meetings at the new Permitting & Development Center (PDC) starting in 2022. While this decision has been part of the new facility planning process for some time, we recognize we may not have communicated that approach as effectively with you as would be expected, and for that we apologize.

In an effort to create a transition that is good and smooth for everyone, we would welcome and appreciate the opportunity to meet with you at the new site shortly after the Thanksgiving holiday. This would be an opportunity to visit with Development Services and Housing & Planning Department leadership, tour the facility and its amenities, and further discuss any concerns or questions you might have. We are proud of this new site and are excited to put it toward fruitful community use.

Ideally, we would try to schedule this as a lunch meeting/tour. If you would be amenable to this, please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you, and hope you each have a pleasant weekend in the meantime.

Sincerely,

Jason Alexander

Assistant to the City Manager

City of Austin, Office of the City Manager

512 974 2306 | Jason.Alexander@austintexas.gov

Jessica Cohen
Boards and Commissions

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Jolene Kiolbassa
Boards and Commissions

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