

**WHEREAS**, the cost of housing in the City is too high for too many people;  
and

**WHEREAS**, each annual Progress-to-Date scorecard created by the City of Austin Housing and Planning Department and HousingWorks Austin has shown that every Council district is not meeting the goals and timeline of the Strategic Housing Blueprint; and

**WHEREAS**, the manuals include the Administrative Rules for Solid Waste Services, Building Criteria Manual, Drainage Criteria Manual, Environmental Criteria Manual, Fire Protection Criteria Manual, Standard Specifications Manual, Standards Manual, Traditional Neighborhood District Criteria Manual, Transportation Criteria Manual, Utilities Criteria Manual; and

**WHEREAS**, the City currently lacks a transparent process for reviewing the technical criteria manuals for inconsistencies, redundancies, and policy implications; and

**WHEREAS**, other Texas cities, including Dallas, have established development advisory committees comprised of industry professionals and city

25 staff that meet regularly to review and provide input on the adoption of rules  
26 impacting the development process, address implementation challenges, and  
27 resolve conflicts, make recommendations; and

28 **WHEREAS**, these advisory committees have successfully analyzed  
29 proposed development rules and policies, resolving potential conflicts, and  
30 recommending improvements to existing processes and regulations; **NOW**,  
31 **THEREFORE**,

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

33 The City Manager is directed to collaborate with housing and development  
34 community stakeholders to establish a Technical Advisory Review Panel (TARP)  
35 that meets the following requirements:

- 36 1. The TARP should be composed of:
  - 37 a. City staff from all departments relevant to creating, editing, and updating  
38 technical criteria manuals, including but not limited to the Development  
39 Services Department, the Austin Transportation Department, the  
40 Watershed Protection Department, Austin Energy, the Austin Water  
41 Utility, and the Austin Fire Department; and
  - 42 b. Housing and development industry professionals, including  
43 representatives of home builders, including affordable housing and infill  
44 developers, as well as contractors, engineers, and architects.
- 45 2. The role of the TARP should include:
  - 46 a. Reviewing the City's technical criteria manuals, with the goal of:
    - 47 i. Identifying the most challenging issues for staff and industry in  
48 implementing criteria manuals; and

49                   ii.     Providing recommendations for improving the criteria manuals and  
50                   the process for adopting and amending criteria manuals.

51           b.   Ensuring opportunities for public input and consultation with relevant  
52           City boards and commissions, which should be timed to maximize  
53           opportunities for departments to consider the TARP's recommendations  
54           before beginning the process required by City Chapter 1-2 (*Adoption of*  
55           *Rules*) for adopting criteria manuals or amendments.

56           3.   The City Manager should ensure sufficient staff support and involvement of  
57           City departments to ensure that the process achieves its goals.

58   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

59   In establishing the TARP review process, as described above, the City Manager  
60   should ensure transparency and openness in amending, updating, and reviewing  
61   technical criteria manuals. To this end, the process should provide for:

- 62           1.   Soliciting recommendations from the TARP to better align criteria manuals  
63           with existing City Council policies, City housing goals, and industry best  
64           practices, as well as the needs of individual departments and the protection  
65           of public health and safety;
- 66           2.   Minimizing cross-departmental conflicts and redundancies;
- 67           3.   Establishing a process for conflict resolution;
- 68           4.   Documenting the costs, timeline, and housing capacity implications to City  
69           staff and the development community of the implementation and  
70           enforcement of new rules;

- 71 5. Identifying opportunities to clarify conflicts and redundancies in the Land  
72 Development Code (LDC) to simplify and clarify application of new rules;  
73 and  
74 6. Where appropriate, working with relevant City boards and commissions,  
75 including but not limited to the Planning and Design Commissions.

76 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

77 The City Manager is directed to complete the initial steps necessary to establish the  
78 TARP consistent with this resolution and provide an update to Council within 180  
79 days, which may include any recommended budget amendments or other Council  
80 action as deemed appropriate.

81  
82 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2023 **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
83 Myrna Rios  
84 City Clerk  
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