

Zoning and Platting Commission, City of Austin, Budget Recommendations
FY 2023-2024

The Zoning and Platting Commission respectfully urges City Council Members to consider the following recommendations regarding the City of Austin FY 2023-2024 budget.

Planning Department, Development Services - Provide funding to purchase and implement software tools such as those available from Gridics or ArgGIS Urban to give staff members access to the details they need to more quickly work through permitting and zoning applications. One platform should include everything needed including property details, zoning regulations, flooding maps (both localized and creek) and Austin's wildfire risk map. The tools should automatically check submitted applications for accurate mathematical calculations as well as consistency with property details and zoning regulations. Once implemented, these web-based tools can also be used to create and analyze the impact of larger projects such as small area plans and affordable housing studies, as well as facilitate public engagement.

Housing Department - Ensure adequate staffing and resources in all City income-restricted housing programs to timely monitor compliance with income restricted housing requirements including the number of units provided, how quickly the units are filled, and whether health and safety maintenance is provided on a regular and sufficient basis.

Planning Department - Provide adequate planning staff and resources to initiate and facilitate concurrent small area planning processes for:

- Areas of the city that are unplanned.
- Displacement prevention and mitigation in Project Connect corridors.
- Historic surveys of neighborhoods and community assets impacted by rapid redevelopment and displacement.

Fire - Increase staffing for construction and environmental inspections to ensure that all public infrastructure is built according to approved requirements and to address the \$261,617 decrease in funding from the FY 2020-2021 budget.

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Fire - Provide funding to facilitate implementation of City wildfire prevention and preparedness programs, and Firewise program.

Development Services (CODE) - Ensure adequate staffing and resources to proactively monitor and enforce compliance with health and safety regulations by developments that participate in city, state, and federal income-restricted housing, rental assistance, or home repair assistance programs in Austin.

Development Services (CODE) - Provide funding for a Livability Team to facilitate timely response to time- sensitive code complaints after regular business hours and on weekends

Watershed protection - Increase funding for engineering consultants for floodplain study projects currently underway.

City wide - Provide ongoing funding to allow the public to participate virtually in public meetings held by Council, boards, and commissions.