

RESOLUTION NO. 20230413-045

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to promoting public safety and reducing the incidence of drunk driving; and

WHEREAS, eliminating parking requirements for bars can encourage alternative modes of transportation and reduce the incidence of drunk driving; and

WHEREAS, drunk driving is a serious public safety concern in the City, and poses a threat to the health and wellbeing of all residents; and

WHEREAS, current parking minimums often require more parking than what is currently needed and conflict with the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan's (ASMP) stated goal of a 50/50 mode share by 2039, where 50% of commuters are driving alone and 50% are using other modes of transportation; and

WHEREAS, parking construction can cost a business between \$10,000 to more than \$40,000 per space, a significant amount that can negatively impact a business' bottom line, or net income for a certain period; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that alcohol-impaired crashes accounted for 28% of all traffic fatalities in Texas in 2019; and

WHEREAS, current building standards require that a property of 2,500-square-foot must accommodate at least 25 drivers, and bars in excess of 10,000-square-feet must have sufficient room to store a minimum of 400 cars; and

WHEREAS, maintaining on-site parking requirements for bars can facilitate and incentivize driving over using other forms of transportation for bar patrons, and work against Austin's efforts to reduce car dependency; and

WHEREAS, Texas is seeing a growing epidemic of drunk driving related deaths, with one person in Texas dying every 7 hours and 43 minutes in a driving under the influence (DUI)-alcohol related traffic crash; and

WHEREAS, in Travis County there was a 71 percent increase in DUI related deaths from 2011 to 2021; and

WHEREAS, Texas has also seen an uptick in driving while intoxicated (DWI) arrests, with a total of 2,554 DWI arrests in the City in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City has made efforts to reduce drunk driving through public awareness campaigns, increased police presence, and transportation alternatives, such as ride-sharing and public transit; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that reducing parking requirements for bars and restaurants can help promote responsible drinking and decrease the incidence of drunk driving; and

WHEREAS, decreasing parking requirements for bars and restaurants could also encourage the growth of local businesses and increase economic activity in the City; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

City Council initiates amendments to City Code Title 25 (*Land Development*) necessary to eliminate non-accessible parking requirements for cocktail lounge use.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

City Council directs the City Manager to process Code amendments necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth in this resolution and return with a draft ordinance for City Council consideration by October 19, 2023.

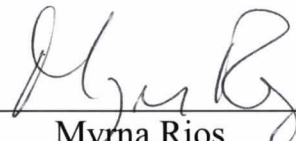
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

While making recommendations to the council, the City Manager shall carry out a stakeholder process through a relevant city commission or an independent stakeholder process that should include, but is not limited to, the following organizations:

- Local bar owners
- Austin Independent Business Alliance (AIBA)
- Texas Restaurant Association (TRA)
- Austin Food and Wine Alliance
- Texas Craft Brewers Guild
- Austin Young Chamber of Commerce
- Texas Association of Business
- Texas Hotel and Lodging Association
- Austin LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce
- Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce
- Texas Association of African American Chamber of Commerce
- Texas European Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce

ADOPTED: April 13, 2023

ATTEST:



Myrna Rios
City Clerk