

RESOLUTION NO. 20230720-124

WHEREAS, Texas Local Government Code Chapter 211 (Municipal Zoning Authority), adopted in 1987, requires a city to provide published and, at times, individual notice of when and where zoning-related public hearings will be held; and

WHEREAS, state law requires a city to publish notice in a newspaper of general circulation, and, when individual notice is required, to mail notice for the area of the land covered by the proposed change or immediately adjoining it and extending 200 feet from that area; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 20080515-033, which expanded notification from a 200-foot to a 500-foot radius; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 20090521-062, which clarified the use of utility accounts for notification and amended City Code § 25-5-114 (*Time Periods for Determination; Notice*) to allow interested parties to opt-in to electronic notification; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, a specially requested report by the Office of the City Auditor found that the City sends out at least twelve times as many mailings as required by state law, and Austin's expanded boundary far exceeds that of peer Texas cities, causing potential waste; and

WHEREAS, expanded electronic notification opportunities for interested parties and improved clarity of notice communications would improve awareness and access for Austin residents to relevant public information; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

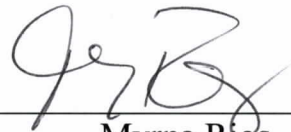
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

City Council initiates amendments to Title 25 (*Land Development*) to modify the area entitled to mailed notice to those properties within 250 feet of the proposed development; and to modify the standard of who is an interested party using a distance of 250 feet from the proposed development instead of 500 feet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to review current notification methods and make recommendations for a comprehensive system of notification that allows for opt-in electronic notification regardless of distance from a proposed development. The City Manager is expected to make recommendations that would improve awareness through clear communication, improve equitable access to relevant information, and reduce cost through use of electronic methods wherever possible. The City Manager's recommendations may include additions to the City's state legislative agenda, such as removing requirements for paid newspaper advertisements.

ADOPTED: July 20, 2023 **ATTEST:**


Myrna Rios
City Clerk