

2023-2024 Budget Resolution: Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Whereas, It is the Responsibility of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission to review, evaluate and make recommendations to City Council, City Management and City Staff regarding policies concerning solid waste, recycling, organic and heavy brush collection pursuant to its Zero Waste Master Plan Goals; and

Whereas, Implementation and/or adherence to City policies must be reflected in the process of planning for future disposal and diversion challenges within the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas and supporting Austin Resource Recovery (ARR), who is responsible for implementing such Policies and Operations; and

Whereas, Unprecedented weather events since 2020 have greatly impacted the logistical and financial challenges associated with the daily course of waste and recycling collection throughout the greater Travis, Williamson and Hays county areas; and

Whereas, in 2000 the City of Austin adopted a comprehensive Master Plan for future garbage, recycling, organic and brush collection within the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas area; and

Whereas, The City of Austin has grown dramatically in population, development and competitiveness over the past five years and is in need of disposal options in the northern and western portions of Austin, Travis County, Texas, to provide more efficient and cost effective route servicing of these areas; and

Whereas, ARR collection vehicles will be transitioning to EV's within a 2-5 year period for the servicing of all household garbage, curbside recycling and organic collection routes; and

Whereas, the 2023-24 Austin Resource Recovery Budget recommendation is stressed to provide competitive compensation for support and collection staff and for the development of a much more efficient and cost effective North Austin Transfer and Hazardous Waste facility which will minimize employee attrition and provide much needed disposal, recycling and hazardous waste drop off options for north, northeast and west Austin residents and provide a future ARR electric vehicle charging and servicing location

Whereas, it is the goal of the Commission to more closely adhere to our Zero Waste Master Plan's diversion goals while acknowledging the future financial demands of unforeseen weather and environmental events facing ARR in meeting these evolving responsibilities beginning with the 2023-2024 Budget cycle; **Now Therefore,**

Be It Resolved That the Zero Waste Advisory Commission of the City of Austin;

Respectfully asks City Management and City Council to formally consider the financial implications of addressing the City of Austin's current and unforeseen events associated with the responsible implementation of daily waste, recycling, heavy brush, organic recycling and household hazardous waste collection by initiating adequate reserve funding for the support of these operations within Austin, Travis County, Texas;

Be It Further Resolved the Zero Waste Advisory Commission of the City of Austin; asks City Management and the City Council of Austin, Texas, to proactively and aggressively identify and develop a North Austin Transfer Station to address the enormous growth occurring in this Austin, Travis County, Texas area. The development of a North Austin Transfer Station will provide a cost effective and efficient collection methodology for ARR and provide much needed EV charging options for ARR vehicles which will lead to greater operational cost efficiencies and ratepayer savings;

Be It Further Resolved the Zero Waste Advisory Commission of the City of Austin; asks City Management and City Council to support a budget increase that will provide more competitive employee compensation pursuant to market conditions and for the addition of more ARR FTE staffing to support previously stated ARR and Zero Waste Goals;

Be it Further Resolved the Zero Waste Advisory Commission of the City of Austin; asks City Management and City Council to responsibly increase ARR's Reserve Fund Balance to meet at a minimum a three month cost of operation reserve in preparation of future unforeseen weather and/or disaster events which will occur;

Be It Further Resolved that the Zero Waste Advisory Commission asks City Management and City Council to implement responsible tree and limb trimming policies within and along City of Austin Right of Ways to insure the safe and efficient collection of garbage, recycling, organic and brush collection from serviced homes.

Resolution Date: **July 28, 2023**

Sponsor: **Gerry Acuna, Chair**

Co Sponsor: _____

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