

Agenda Item 5: Draft Backup



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Economic Prosperity Commission

Recommendation Number: (20230816-005): Instant Messaging for Boards and Commissions

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is best served by its Boards and Commissions when their members can communicated quickly.

WHEREAS, many corporations and clubs use instant messaging platforms like Slack and Discord. Many formal and informal groups use Multimedia Messaging Service, known as "group texts".

WHEREAS, the current group communication for the Economic Prosperity Commission is email, which is not timely.

WHEREAS, the Texas Open Meetings Act appropriately requires Austin's Boards and Commissions to keep open records.

WHEREAS, the open records requirement has prevented the Economic Prosperity Commission from adopting instant messaging.

WHEREAS, City Council has created a messaging platform for itself, the City of Austin Council Message Board.

WHEREAS, there are open instant messaging protocols such as IRC, XMPP, Signal Protocol, and others.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Economic Prosperity Commission encourages the Austin City Council to offer instant messaging to Boards and Commissions that complies with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

The instant messages should be able to be sent via a website or smartphone. For smartphones, it should either be an app for both of the common operating systems, iOS and Android, or a phone number that can be included in MMS group texts to record the conversation.

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All messages received by the platform should be permanently archived and available via a webpage. The webpage should categorize messages by the Board/Commission and the group of members communicating. The messages should be searchable.

Messages should identify the name of the sender. If the messaging system uses phone numbers, members should be able to keep that phone number private from the public.

Date of Approval: _____

Record of the vote:

Attest: _____

(Staff or board member can sign)