

WHEREAS, the Joint Sustainability Committee recognizes that the City of Austin's vision for net zero emissions by 2040 outlined in the Austin Climate Equity Plan prioritizes greenhouse gas emission reduction and calls for 50% of trips to be made by using public transit, biking, walking, carpooling, or avoided altogether by working from home; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Climate Equity Plan outlines how increased property values forces low-income residents to the outskirts of Austin, increasing their dependency on carbon-intensive automobiles; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Climate Equity Plan outlines specific housing goals to create complete communities where residents are less reliant on carbon intensive vehicles, including preserving and producing 135,000 housing units with 75% located within ½ mile of Imagine Austin activity centers and corridors; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Sustainability Committee recognizes that driving contributes to the creation of ground-level ozone, which is a harmful air pollutant that causes and contributes to asthma and other respiratory illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Sustainability's September 2023 Carbon Footprint Update to the Austin Climate Equity Plan shows that transportation is the single greatest source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions locally; and

WHEREAS, the same update recognizes that vehicle ownership and home size are two of the most significant factors to determine Austinites' household-level emissions;

WHEREAS, a report by Environment Texas outlines that compact development delivers environmental benefits including improved water quality, reduced energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, reduced water use, reduced flood risk, and improved air quality, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Joint Sustainability Committee recommends that the Austin City Council approve amendments to the land development code that allow for more compact and connected communities in keeping with the goals of the Austin Climate Equity Plan. Specifically, the Joint Sustainability Committee recommends approval of the following:

1. amendments included in the Home Options for Middle-income Empowerment (HOME) initiative including allowing three units per single-family lot by right and reducing the minimum lot size requirement to allow for smaller single-family homes;
2. the Tiny Home resolution to allow for tiny homes within single family zoning districts;
3. elimination of all city occupancy limits to allow for flexible, affordable co-living options within the City of Austin, reducing the need for Austinites to move to the outskirts of Austin in search of affordable housing and associated dependency on carbon-intensive automobiles, and reducing household-level emissions through shared consumption of energy.