



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20231115-005

Date: November 15, 2023

Subject: Land Development Code “HOME” Amendments

Motion by: David Sullivan

Second by: TBD

WHEREAS, testimony was presented to the Environmental Commission on October 4, 2023, that to help reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, Austin needs to increase population density, as demonstrated by modeling conducted by the University of California at Berkeley (<https://coolclimate.berkeley.edu/maps>); and

WHEREAS, these increases lead to more shared walls that conserve heat and cooling, thus requiring less energy consumption; higher population density attracts closer business and services, thus reducing travel distances and allowing more trips to be made by foot or bike or other micro-mobility means; and higher population density slows urban sprawl, which protects farmland and wilderness areas; and

WHEREAS, efforts to increase population density will need to be demonstrated in the application for federal money to finance Project Connect’s light rail system and expanded Metro Rapid buses; and

WHEREAS, there has been some pushback to the efforts to add more housing within the city.

THEREFORE, the Environmental Commission supports the proposed Land Development Code “HOME” Amendments to allow more household units per lot, to allow for smaller minimum lot sizes, the removal of parking minimum, the relaxation of compatibility regulations, and other measures to increase Austin’s housing stock and resulting population density. Furthermore, this support is conditional on maintaining current protection for trees and current watershed impervious cover requirements.

Vote:

For:

Against:

Abstain:

Absent:

Attest:
