



TO: Mayor Kirk Watson and Austin City Council Members
FROM: Taylor G. Smith, Deputy Director of Government Affairs *Taylor G. Smith*
DATE: March 6, 2024
SUBJECT: Items 20 & 22 – Resolutions Directing the City Manager to Expand and Educate the Community on Existing Rebate Programs that Could Assist in Home Maintenance and Cost.

The Austin Board of REALTORS® is encouraged that the City of Austin recognizes the need for more education and expansion of the City's existing rebate programs. Item 20 is a resolution directing the city manager to explore the City's electric lawn care rebate program and explore creating a program to incentivize consumer lawn care equipment exchange and disposal. Item 22 is a resolution directing the City Manager to create an educational campaign for Austin Water's rebate programs including WaterWise Landscaping rebates and to recommend other water saving measures.

On behalf of our more than 20,000 Central Texas REALTORS®, and the thousands of Central Texans our members serve, **we ask Council to support Items 20 and 22** which would expand existing rebate programs to assist consumers with lawn care equipment maintenance and educate homeowners on Austin Water's WaterWise Landscaping rebate program and other water saving measures. ABoR supports efforts to expand assistance and educational programs that encourage and support homeownership including efforts to encourage property owners to make energy efficient and health and safety improvements to their homes.

We want to thank Council Member **Ryan Alter** for sponsoring Item 20 along with Council Members **Vanessa Fuentes, José Velásquez, Paige Ellis** and **Alison Alter**. We also want to thank Council Member **Mackenzie Kelly** for sponsoring Item 22 along with Council Members **Alison Alter, Ryan Alter**, and **Natasha Harper-Madison**. We look forward to participating as a stakeholder in policy discussions as these items and future efforts to encourage homeownership are considered by Council.

Thank you for your leadership in taking steps to create programs and educate the community about resources that make homeownership more affordable and accessible to all Austinites.

Cc: Jesús Garza, Interim City Manager