

Housing and Planning Committee

Recommendation for Council Action No. 1

WHEREAS, an agrihood is a planned community that integrates agriculture into a residential neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, agrihoods facilitate food production as well as provide green space, recreation, aesthetics and value for a community; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Land Institute defines agrihoods as "single-family, multifamily, or mixed-use communities built with a working farm or community garden as a focus;" and

WHEREAS, there are numerous examples from around the county of agrihoods being developed in cities; and

WHEREAS, in Austin, there are opportunities to utilize some of the last remaining farm properties for agrihoods that focus on affordable housing and improved food access; and

WHEREAS, in the draft Austin Travis County Food Plan, the Community Advisory Committee is proposing the inclusion of a Strategy that specifically supports 'agrihoods' (Goal 1: Strategy 1.2); and,

WHEREAS, best practice points to a need for policy changes to allow incentives for farmer-informed agricultural components, incentives for developers in the design of a community, and public funding to support mixed-use affordable residential, commercial, and agricultural; and

WHEREAS, possible partners for any local program to support agrihoods include existing farm owners/ farmers, affordable housing developers, property

24 management companies, urban farm consultants, school districts, land conservation
25 organizations, and City and Travis County (“County”) staff; **NOW,**

26 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSING AND**
27 **PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

28 The Housing and Planning Committee recommends that the City Council
29 direct the City Manager to investigate whether there are existing impediments to
30 agrihood development and best practices for programmatic support or local
31 funding in order to achieve agrihoods that are comparable to those in other parts of
32 the country.

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

34 The Housing and Planning Committee recommends the City Council direct
35 the City Manager to explore the use of agrihoods as a pilot program in the North
36 East Planning District (NEPD), given its unique mixture of public land assets,
37 existing farmland, collaborative planning between the County and the City, and the
38 existence of the City’s only current agrihood.

39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

40 The Housing and Planning Committee recommends the City Council direct
41 the City Manager to explore additional ways to provide local support for
42 agrihoods. At a minimum, the City Manager should explore:

- 43 1. the feasibility of adopting a zoning typology for the agrihoods concept,
- 44 2. the availability of local or State tax incentives,
- 45 3. the availability of partnerships with Federal agencies and congressional
46 offices,
- 47 4. options to collaborate with the County on agrihood development,

- 48 5. the creation or curation of an agrihoods dashboard that tracks potential sites,
49 needs, and opportunities for agrihoods within the combined City-County
50 geography and establishes metrics for any future agrihoods considerations,
51 and
- 52 6. increased programmatic support for the Sustainability Office and other City
53 staffing related to agrihoods.

54
55 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2024 **ATTEST:** _____

56 Myrna Rios
57 City Clerk