Austin

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Dr. Eric Anthony Johnson, Assistant City Manager

From: Andrea Bates, Austin Planning Director

Date: October 13, 2026

Subject: **Update of the Urban Design Guidelines - Staff Response (Resolution No. 20210902-046)**

The purpose of this memorandum is to respond to Resolution No. 20210902-046, which directed the City Manager to collaborate with the Design Commission on updates to the Urban Design Guidelines (UDG).

In 2021, Austin Planning staff began working with the Design Commission on updates to the UDG in accordance with the City Council's direction and the Commission's Update Draft Framework. In July 2024, City Council Resolution No. 20240718-185 directed the City Manager to update the Downtown Density Bonus Program (DDBP). Additionally, in October 2025, City Council again directed the City Manager to update the DDBP for three subdistricts by June 2026. On May 28, 2026, the City Council approved Ordinance No. 20260528-067, adopting the first phase of the DDBP Update.

Under the prior DDBP, participating projects were required to demonstrate compliance with discretionary Urban Design Guidelines, as determined by the Design Commission. The updated DDBP requires participating projects to choose from a menu of non-discretionary Urban Design Standards, with the choice to provide a specified number of optional standards from a list. Based on previous City Council actions, the Urban Design Standards have largely replaced the Urban Design Guidelines, and the work by Austin Planning has concluded. This update will serve as the close-out to Resolution No. 202109902-046.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jorge E. Rousselin, Division Manager of Austin Planning at jorge.rousselin@austintexas.gov or (512) 974-2975.

cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Erika Brady, City Clerk
Jason Hadavi, City Auditor
Mary Jane Grubb, Municipal Court Clerk
Judge Sherry Statman, Municipal Court
CMO Executive Team
Department Directors