

RESOLUTION NO.

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2
3 **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin benefits from the active involvement of its
4 residents and has established a number of sovereign and advisory boards and
5 commissions to provide valuable professional expertise and additional public
6 oversight and to ensure diverse community representation in its decision making;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, there are currently over 90 boards, commissions, task forces,
9 intergovernmental bodies, and corporation boards for which Council serves as the
10 board members (council corporations), in Austin, collectively referred to as
11 “governance bodies” for purposes of this resolution, some of which are required by
12 state or federal law or the City Charter, while others were created under City Council
13 authority; and

14 **WHEREAS**, in response to Resolution No. 20131121-056, which directed
15 the City Clerk to form a task force to recommend a board and commission transition
16 plan after the City changed to the 10-1 council member system, a Board and
17 Commission Transition Task Force was established by Resolution No. 20140515-
18 027 and made recommendations regarding potential improvements to the board and
19 commission structure; and

20 **WHEREAS**, a Special Report by the City Auditor’s office, presented at the
21 August 28, 2024, meeting of the Audit & Finance Committee, noted several boards
22 and commissions are not formally established in City Code, are inactive, have
23 longstanding vacancies, or occasionally provide recommendations outside of the
24 scope of their duties established in their bylaws; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Auditor’s Special Report additionally noted as a part of its
26 peer city analysis that other governmental entities such as San Antonio and El Paso

27 include a regular process of evaluation or “sunset review” of boards and
28 commissions to ensure ongoing alignment with City Code and state and federal law,
29 as applicable; and

30 **WHEREAS**, the Commission on Immigrant Affairs has submitted a
31 recommendation to Council in Recommendation No. 20240916-006 for a website
32 where all board and commission recommendations are searchable; and

33 **WHEREAS**, the City Clerk’s office identified several intergovernmental
34 bodies and council corporations that are inactive, and Council responsibilities for
35 appointments in many cases are not currently formalized in City Code; and

36 **WHEREAS**, Council seeks to improve the clarity of purpose and efficient
37 operation of governance bodies by doing a full review of potential gaps,
38 redundancies, and out of date provisions prior to the appointment or re-appointment
39 of members set to occur in Spring 2025; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

40 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

41 The City Manager is directed to review the inventory of current boards and
42 commissions, task forces, corporation boards, and intergovernmental bodies and
43 identify any updates to City Code that would improve the clarity of purpose, cadence
44 of meeting, and efficient operation of these governance bodies. At minimum, the
45 City Manager is directed to consider and prepare an ordinance that updates City
46 Code consistent with the direction identified in Appendix A of this resolution.

47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

48 The City Manager is directed to return to the Audit and Finance Committee
49 meeting scheduled for February 19, 2025, prior to posting this proposed ordinance
50 on a Council agenda and to notify all governance bodies listed in Appendix A of this
51 proposed review and solicit feedback prior to Council consideration.

52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

53 The City Manager is directed to work collaboratively with the City Clerk's
54 office to develop a regular sunset review process of governance bodies that would
55 allow regular and staggered consideration of each body's current scope and duties.
56 The process should aim to review each body established by Council at least once
57 every 10 years. The City Manager and City Clerk should return to the Audit &
58 Finance Committee with a recommended process.

59 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

60 The City Manager is additionally directed to return to City Council with an
61 ordinance for a single section of City Code that clearly establishes the
62 responsibilities of Council appointments to intergovernmental bodies.

63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

64 The City Manager is directed to work collaboratively with the City Clerk's
65 office to develop a single website that publicly archives recommendations to the
66 Mayor and Council from boards and commissions, similar to the searchable database
67 for memos to Mayor and Council.

68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

69 The City Manager is directed to review the translation services needs of
70 governance bodies, including but not limited to the Commission on Immigrant
71 Affairs, and to offer recommendations for supporting these services as a part of the
72 Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget.

74 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2024 **ATTEST:** _____

75 Myrna Rios
76 City Clerk