

**RESOLUTION NO.**

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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), collectively referred to as “governance  
11 bodies” for purposes of this resolution, some of which are required by state or federal  
12 law or the City Charter, while others were created under City Council authority; and

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

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

24       **WHEREAS**, the Auditor’s Special Report additionally noted as a part of its  
25 peer city analysis that other governmental entities such as San Antonio and El Paso  
26 include a regular process of evaluation or “sunset review” of boards and

27 commissions to ensure ongoing alignment with City Code and state and federal law,  
28 as applicable; and

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

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

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37 redundancies, and out of date provisions prior to the appointment or re-appointment  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

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

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

46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

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

51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

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

58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

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

62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

63 The City Manager is directed to develop a single website that publicly  
64 archives recommendations to the Mayor and Council from boards and commissions,  
65 similar to the searchable database for memos to Mayor and Council.

66 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

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

71  
72 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

73 Myrna Rios  
74 City Clerk  
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