



**RESOLUTION OF THE AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOODS COUNCIL REGARDING
REMOTE PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, one of the goals of the City of Austin is a Government That Works for All of Us by building a more trusting and collaborative decision making process; and

WHEREAS, major city goals are transparency, equity, and encouragement of public participation in city government; and

WHEREAS, many boards and commissions have difficulty recruiting qualified members because of the burden of in-person meetings, and

WHEREAS, more citizens participate in Planning Commission meetings than any other commission; and

WHEREAS, City Council, the Planning Commission and Public Hearings on Neighborhood Plan Amendments have been conducting meetings remotely for over a year; and

WHEREAS, the laws of the State of Texas currently allow commissions to meet remotely;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Austin Neighborhoods Council Executive Committee requests that the City Council

1. Revise any City ordinance that would restrict the ability of citizens, Councilmembers, or members of boards and commissions to participate remotely in City Council, Boards and Commission meetings, and Public Hearings for Neighborhood Plan Amendments and zoning cases.
2. Include in the Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022 funds for the equipment and personnel needed for remote participation in City Council, Planning Commission meetings and Public Hearings for Neighborhood Plan Amendment and zoning cases.
3. Direct the City Manager to allocate the technical and personnel resources to allow citizens, City Council members and Commissioners to remotely participate in City Council, Planning Commission meetings, and Public Hearings for Neighborhood Plan amendments and zoning cases.
4. Create a format for remote participation in City Council, Planning Commission meetings and Public Hearings that would allow for citizens to respond to the questions, comments and presentations of City Council members, Planning Commissioners, and developer representatives.
5. Direct the City Manager to establish a schedule for allowing citizens and commission members to participate remotely in all boards and commission meetings.

Presented to ANC Executive Committee: August 11, 2021

ANC Executive Committee Approved: August 12, 2021

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