



Agency Members

February 20, 2019

Accessible Housing Austin!

Atlantic Housing Foundation, Inc.

Austin Community Design & Development Center

Austin Habitat for Humanity

Blackland CDC

Blackshear Neighborhood Development Corporation

Caritas of Austin

Chestnut Neighborhood Revitalization Corporation

College Houses

Foundation Communities

Frameworks Community Development Corporation

Guadalupe Neighborhood Development Corporation

HousingWorks Austin

Jeremiah Program

LifeWorks

Meals on Wheels Central Texas

National Church Residences

Saint Louise House

Associate Members

ALEON Properties

BETCO Consulting, LLC.

True Casa Consulting

Neighbors United for Progress

Texas Association of County Development Corporations

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

The Austin Housing Coalition (formerly the CHDO Roundtable) has represented the community of “housers” across Austin and Central Texas since its founding in 2003. We are nonprofit housing developers, housing and policy experts, and other interested organizations, businesses, and residents who support the development of safe, affordable housing for Austin residents. Our members work to house people experiencing homelessness, repair the houses of low-income homeowners, provide quality affordable rental housing, and empower low-income households to become successful, first-time homebuyers.

We want to express our support for Resolution No. 20190221-027, sponsored by Council Member Gregorio Casar, Mayor Pro Tem Delia Garza, Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison, and Council Member Sabino “Pio” Renteria.

We are excited that this resolution has already gained widespread support and is poised to help address some of Austin’s affordability issues. The Austin Housing Coalition supports the resolution because at a broad level:

- It will allow us to better leverage funding from the 2018 Affordable Housing Bond to create more income-restricted affordable housing units.
- It will help achieve the community value of creating new and affordable housing choices throughout Austin highlighted in the Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint.
- It will create mixed-income affordable housing throughout the city and help achieve our housing dispersion goals.

More specifically, The Austin Housing Coalition supports a variety of important provisions included within the resolution, including:

- Creating flexible parking standards that will allow housing providers to provide parking best-suited for the type of development, population served, and location of the project.
- Increasing height standards that will give housing providers the opportunity to create greater and better-quality affordable housing units while fitting in with the surrounding neighborhood context.
- Allowing flexibility regarding compatibility standards that will provide opportunities to better leverage our City’s affordable housing investments.
- Requiring at least 50% of the units to be affordable that will increase the viability of building affordable housing and mixed-income units.

We are thankful to the sponsors for allowing us to review earlier drafts of the resolution and for including our recommendations. The Austin Housing Coalition is supporting this resolution because it can play a key role in achieving the affordable housing targets highlighted in the Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint and in supporting the efforts of our affordable housing providers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Joslin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicole Joslin, RA, LEED AP
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Executive Director, Austin Community Design and Development Center
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