

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the administration of government in a manner that is open and accessible to the public is a highly valued principle of the Austin City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council believes that conducting the City's business in an open and transparent manner is essential to the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the current law regarding many open government issues has been complicated by changing technologies and means of communication, as evidenced by the divergent positions taken by the Texas Attorney General and the Texas courts on issues such as the treatment of information on private electronic devices; and

WHEREAS, although the law regarding personal electronic devices is unsettled in Texas, the Austin City Council desires to bring clarity to city operations by establishing a policy that ensures the public's access to government;
NOW, THEREFORE,

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

The City Council establishes the following policy regarding the conduct of city business through written communication on personal communication devices:

1. City accounts shall be used to conduct city business.
2. If circumstances require a City official or employee to conduct city business on a non-city account, the official or employee shall forward the associated electronic communications to a city account. Once

forwarded to a city account, the communication will be public information as set out in the Texas Public Information Act.

3. This policy does not waive any exception under the Texas Public Information Act.

This policy applies to all communications occurring immediately after the adoption of this resolution.

ADOPTED: _____, 2011

ATTEST: _____
Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk

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