



**BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

**Downtown Commission**

**Recommendation Number: (20180516-007): Downtown Commission CodeNEXT Working Group Evaluation of Third Draft of CodeNEXT**

WHEREAS, The City Council adopted the community based Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan in 2012; and

WHEREAS, The first major rewrite of Austin's land development code in 30 years is underway with CodeNEXT; and;

WHEREAS, The Downtown Austin Plan recommended amending the Land Development Code, revising regulations for the downtown area to promote a mix of uses, and incentivizing well-designed dense development, preserving unique districts and destinations and result in buildings that contribute to a vibrant public realm; and

WHEREAS, Imagine Austin calls for a compact, connected and sustainable city; and

WHEREAS, Downtown is currently the most compact and connected area in the city with infrastructure already in place to provide sustainable development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that application of these adopted principles have not been incorporated into the latest Draft of CodeNEXT, and the Downtown Commission recommendations for CodeNEXT focuses on the tenet that the entire City of Austin and its downtown will benefit by encouraging downtown density. Downtown's growth currently is restricted by several geographic and regulatory constraints. With space at a premium, CodeNEXT needs to take advantage of available space to maximize the density of downtown without placing additional regulations on development which discourage density.

A key element of Imagine Austin was encouraging downtown density, therefore CodeNEXT should facilitate the optimal development of all available properties and not act as an impediment to future growth.

Downtown Commission appreciates the efforts and complexity of creating CodeNEXT, however, the Commissions does not believe the current release as written is in the best interest of downtown and the citizens of Austin.

Date of Approval: May 16, 2018

Record of the vote: 7-0 with Vice Chair Bristol Abstaining

Mona Sanchez, Liaison, Downtown Commission

Joel Sher, Chair, Downtown Commission

Attest: Mona Sanchez  
Attest: Joel Sher

Date: 5.29.18  
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