



November 3, 2011

Committee Members
2012 Charter Revision Committee
Austin City Hall
301 West 2nd St.
Austin, TX 78701

RE: ANC's Position on 2012 City Charter Revisions

Dear Committee Members:

The membership of the Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) met on October 26, 2011 and deliberated on our stance on geographic representation on City Council. I am pleased to inform you that the ANC endorses a 10-0-1 plan for inclusion in the 2012 City Charter election. The "10-0-1" denotes an election model with 10 members from geographic-based districts, no at-large members, and the Mayor. The ANC membership specifically considered whether to ask for Council members elected at-large or from superdistricts and rejected that option.

In summary, the ANC vote in support of 10 single member districts for Austin's City Council reflects our belief that our city has grown in size and diversity to the point that the current system no longer can provide adequate and fair representation of all residents. The ANC-endorsed election model – 10 districts and a Mayor – would ensure that Austin today and tomorrow will be in compliance with the spirit and letter of the Voting Rights Act. A 10-0-1 plan combats voter apathy by providing citizens a better opportunity to engage with their elected officials.

Please note that the ANC membership also endorsed a redistricting process based upon an independent citizens commission.

In addition, the ANC membership voted to retain the City's election in the month of May.

Please note that the ANC will take a stance on other questions for the Charter Election as promptly as our internal process permits.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Steven Aleman
ANC President, 2011 – 2012

cc: City of Austin City Clerk