



**THE REAL ESTATE COUNCIL OF AUSTIN, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLUTION
OPPOSED TO A TRAVIS COUNTY BOND PROPOSITION TO BUILD A NEW CIVIL AND
FAMILY COURTS FACILITY IN DOWNTOWN AUSTIN**

WHEREAS, Travis County proposes the issuance of \$287,275,000 of bonds for the purpose of constructing, improving and equipping civil and family courts facilities and the levying of the tax in payment thereof; and

WHEREAS, The Real Estate Council of Austin does not question the need for new or expanded courthouse facilities but does question the proposed location; and

WHEREAS, construction of the new facilities is planned for the last undeveloped and unrestricted block in downtown Austin and is not the best use of the land; and

WHEREAS, construction of new facilities at the proposed downtown location would require a tax increase on residents; and

WHEREAS, Austin is in the midst of an affordability crisis, with average home prices and rents have increasing dramatically, while average income grows just slightly; and

WHEREAS, new courthouse facilities would be off the tax roll, precluding the community from receiving hundreds of millions of dollars of property tax receipts; and

WHEREAS, there are alternative sites that have the necessary infrastructure to accommodate users and provide more convenient, ample parking; and

WHEREAS, if built outside the downtown core, land and construction costs would be reduced both now and if the County needs expanded facilities in the future; and

WHEREAS, if built outside the downtown core, new courthouse facilities could help spur economic activity and the development of mobility options in other parts of the city.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Real Estate Council of Austin, Inc. is opposed to the Travis County Bond Proposition on the November 2015 ballot for the issuance of \$287,275,000 of bonds for the purpose of constructing, improving and equipping civil and family courts facilities and the levying of the tax in payment thereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Real Estate Council of Austin, Inc. recognizes the need for modernized and upgraded courthouse facilities, and supports the County looking into alternative locations.

Adopted on this 22nd day of October 2015 by The Real Estate Council of Austin, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ward Tisdale", is written over a horizontal line.

Ward Tisdale
President
The Real Estate Council of Austin, Inc.