

MEDIA CONTACT INFORMATION:

[Ryan Poulos](#), Real Estate Council of Austin, 512-320-4151

RECA Calls for Overhaul of City Development Processes and Policies

(August 12, 2015) AUSTIN, Texas – The Real Estate Council of Austin (RECA) released its second white paper in a series examining housing affordability in Austin. The paper, *Affordable Austin: Why Can't We Build the Housing We Need*, makes recommendations and sets goals to fix our code and development process in order to make it more feasible to achieve the goal of at least 100,000 new units by 2025.

“The logical next step after our [first white paper](#), which called for at least 100,000 new units, was to diagnose the problems that keep the city from achieving that. This paper not only identifies those problems but also makes specific recommendations of what needs to be changed to achieve our goals,” said Ward Tisdale, president of RECA.

In order to achieve the outlined goals, RECA calls for dramatic changes to fix the code and development review process, while also addressing anti-development policies that are given validation and power by entrenched neighborhood associations throughout the city.

Central Texas is one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. Failing to meet the need for new housing is only pricing many Austin workers out of the city, a problem that will grow significantly as the region's population grows by at least 30 percent over the next 15 years and doubles to 4 million by 2020. Austin needs more housing of all kinds and at all prices throughout the city.

“While the city is beginning to take needed steps toward long-term reform of its codes and processes, Austin is still losing ground on a daily basis. The argument that we cannot add more central-city housing without damaging the integrity of neighborhoods is simply untrue, and Austin today is less dense than any other major city in Texas, with many central-city census tracts having lost population in the past decade,” said Heidi Gerbracht, RECA's Vice President of Public Policy.

The Imagine Austin plan, which was unanimously adopted in 2012 as the blueprint for the city's future after input from thousands of Austin residents, recognized the need for a more compact and connected city. But this vision will never be realized unless Austin and its policy makers take the difficult steps necessary to achieve the community's vision of an affordable, sustainable and equitable city.

Learn more by downloading the full white paper [here](#). Please contact RECA's Director of Communications [Ryan Poulos](#) at 512-320-4151 if you have any questions or need any additional information.

###

About RECA:

The Real Estate Council of Austin ([RECA](#)) addresses issues affecting the commercial real estate community in Central Texas. With more than 1,700 members, the non-profit, advocacy organization represents a broad spectrum of the Central Texas economy, ranging from landowners and developers to the various service professions that facilitate the industry. Commercial real estate development brings new jobs to Central Texas while protecting existing jobs and increasing tax revenue, which is used to fund our public schools, city services, infrastructure and parks.