

August 9, 2006

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## **Cherrywood Neighborhood Association Peak Oil Resolution**

Resolution encouraging the Austin Neighborhoods Council to request that the City of Austin to establish a Peak Oil Task Force to assess Austin's exposure to diminishing supplies of oil and natural gas and make recommendations to address vulnerabilities.

WHEREAS, global reserves of oil and natural gas are finite and sufficient substitutes are unlikely to be available in the immediate future; and

WHEREAS, U.S. oil and natural gas production have peaked and are now in decline, ensuring our nation's continued and growing dependence on oil and natural gas imported from politically unstable regions; and

WHEREAS, a growing body of energy industry experts believe that the world has already arrived at, or will soon arrive at, the peak of global oil production, which will be followed by an inevitable decline in available supply thereafter; and

WHEREAS, global demand for oil and natural gas continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, following the global peaks of oil and natural gas production, the interaction of decreasing supply and increased demand will cause the price of oil and natural gas to become more volatile; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory has stated that, "The problems associated with world oil production peaking will not be temporary, and past 'energy crisis' experience will provide relatively little guidance. The challenge of oil peaking deserves immediate, serious attention, if risks are to be fully understood and mitigation begun on a timely basis"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin and its citizens and businesses depend on oil and natural gas for their economic welfare and their most critical activities, including transportation, security and food supply; and

WHEREAS, many of the solutions to lessening dependence on fossil fuels result in local jobs and substantial economic benefits, and

WHEREAS, efforts to mitigate the impact of peak oil may impact local neighborhoods, land use decisions, and transportation planning throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, Austin residents and businesses are not currently aware of the full implications of an impending decline and will greatly benefit from an objective source of information on this topic; and

*WHEREAS, the City of Austin has adopted the Local Action Plan On Global Warming, the success of which depends upon reducing carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels; and*

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has a national reputation for planning and actions aimed at maintaining the City's social values, equity, and quality of life and can take a leadership role in what may become one of the greatest political economic and societal issues of the next half century; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association desires and recommends that the Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) encourage the City of Austin to establish a Peak Oil Task Force to assess Austin's exposure to diminishing supplies of oil and natural gas and make recommendations to address vulnerabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association recommends that ANC encourage the Task Force's charge to include efforts:

- a. To acquire and study current and credible data and information on the issues of peak oil and natural gas production and the related economic and other societal consequences;
- b. To seek community and business input on the impacts and proposed solutions;
- c. To develop recommendations to City Council in this calendar year on strategies the City and its bureaus can take to mitigate the impacts of declining energy supplies in areas including, but not limited to: transportation, business and home energy use, water, food security, health care, communications, land use planning, and wastewater treatment.
- d. To propose methods of educating the public about this issue in order to create positive behavior change among businesses and residents that reduce dependence on fossil fuels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association herein directs the CNA representative(s) to the Austin Neighborhood Council to deliver this resolution to ANC members, and to advocate for its support by ANC for ANC delivery to the Austin City Council.