

WARD

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By KEVIN THOMAS

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SPADE PHILLIPS, P.I. by Matt Kowalski

Anti-apartheid policy delays purchases

AUSTIN (AP) — The Austin City Council's anti-apartheid policy, which calls for an end to contracts with companies linked to South Africa, is delaying some purchases needed by city government.

For example, the city was ready to start running sophisticated new computer software that will make utility bills easier to read, but a glitch in buying the necessary hardware has stalled the long-awaited project.

It has been more than three months since the City Council unanimously approved the stricter anti-apartheid ordinance, and Councilman George Humphrey said he expects more conflicts to crop up as various departments review contracts and begin to make purchases.

"This was bound to come up," Humphrey, a co-author of the measure, said.

The council has decided to appoint a five-member board, made up of four residents and the city's purchasing officer, to recommend to the City Council what action it should take when problems arise and if exceptions to the law should be granted.

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