

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, Lions Club members established an organization in 1924 known as the Austin Municipal Golf and Amusement Association (the “Association”) with the intent to establish the first municipal golf course and clubhouse in Austin; and

WHEREAS, a lease for a portion of the Brackenridge Tract in West Austin owned by the University of Texas was executed on May 31, 1924, between the Board of Regents and the Association; and

WHEREAS, the Lions Municipal Golf Course was opened on January 16, 1930; and

WHEREAS, the lease with the Association was transferred to the City of Austin on December 17, 1936; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Municipal Golf and Amusement Association was dissolved on April 21, 1938, and since that time the golf course has been known as “Muny” to the Austin community; and

WHEREAS, personal accounts from the 1940’s and 1950’s by Austin residents including General Marshall and Dr. William Bacon describe the practice of allowing African American residents to caddie on the course, but not play at the facility; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court ruled in Sweatt v. Painter in 1950 that the University of Texas must admit African Americans into the University of Texas Law School; and

WHEREAS, the national publicity around the case brought attention to civil rights in Austin; and

WHEREAS, on April 5, 1951, Council Member Emma Long suggested at a City Council Meeting that the City integrate Lions Municipal Golf Course rather than build a separate nine hole facility for African American golfers; and

WHEREAS, a separate facility on the Lions Municipal Golf Course grounds was constructed by June 1951 to provide showers for African American golfers; and

WHEREAS, the integration of many public facilities in Austin occurred quietly starting in 1950 after the Sweatt v. Painter decision; and

WHEREAS, the voluntary integration of Lions Municipal Golf Course occurred in Austin before other United States Supreme Court rulings on Brown v. Board of Education and decisions requiring integration of public golf courses; and

WHEREAS, this distinction makes the Lions Municipal Golf Course the first integrated public golf course in the South; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the City Council of the City of Austin supports the Travis County Historical Commission's application to the Texas Historical Commission for a historical marker at the Lions Municipal Golf Course in recognition of the historic significance of the integration of Lions Municipal Golf Course and

the advancement of civil rights by the desegregation of the golf course in 1951.

ADOPTED: _____, 2009 **ATTEST:** _____
Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk