

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, recent severe drought conditions in Travis County, and the surrounding areas, have prompted city leaders and first responders across the region to focus attention on the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) in the hopes of preventing widespread damage and mitigating fire risk; and

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions in and around Travis County, including the City of Austin, are contemplating new ways that communities and neighborhoods can be better prepared for prolonged drought conditions and the associated risk of widespread fire; and

WHEREAS, drought conditions continue to exist today and the City of Austin has again issued a burn ban for all City Parks; and

WHEREAS, incorporating new technologies could potentially assist first responders in identifying fires in a timely manner, and provide consistent data to surrounding jurisdictions so that responses can be coordinated and comprehensive; and

WHEREAS, FireWatch America developed an innovative technology that has yielded results in other countries helping first responders to identify sources of origin for fires in minutes and provides timely notification to residents who could be potentially affected by a fire in the WUI; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is hereby directed to study the technology developed by FireWatch America to determine the feasibility and appropriateness of use by the City of Austin to assist in the detection and suppression of fires in the WUI.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to identify possible opportunities for interlocal agreements and cooperation should this particular technology be deemed feasible.

ADOPTED: _____, 2012

ATTEST: _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk