

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to providing a safe environment for children riding school buses to and from school; and

WHEREAS, the City's Child Safety Program assists elementary school children across major intersections and streets on their way to and from school; and

WHEREAS, recent efforts have included reducing speed limits around schools, increasing Austin Police Department presence near bus stops to enforce the current criminal laws in place, and enhancing citizen awareness about the need to follow these traffic rules; and

WHEREAS, despite the City's ongoing programs and new initiatives, motor vehicles continue to illegally pass school buses actively loading and unloading students, thereby endangering students and other road users; and

WHEREAS, several cities have implemented systems utilizing multiple cameras and real-time analysis to issue civil penalties to those who violate the law; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes a program providing for photographic enforcement and administrative adjudication of school bus stop arm violations and imposition of civil fines for those violations could reduce the

number of motor vehicles unlawfully passing a stopped school bus, furthering public health, safety and welfare; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Manager is directed to study the feasibility of a new civil penalty ordinance for unlawfully passing a stopped school bus that is operating certain visual signals (including red flashing lights and extended stop arms) while loading and unloading students.

The City Manager shall determine the appropriate roles and responsibilities for the City and any school districts to enforce and administer the new ordinance, and shall bring back any potential interlocal agreements to Council for final approval.

The City Manager shall report back to Council by January 31, 2012.

ADOPTED: _____, 2012 **ATTEST:** _____
Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk