

RESOLUTION NO. 20130523-074

WHEREAS, on August 8, 1992, 64 percent of Austin voters cast their ballots in favor of the citizen-initiated Save Our Springs, or "SOS," ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Save Our Springs ordinance was drafted and petitioned onto the ballot as a citizen-initiated ordinance as provided by the Austin City Charter by the Save Our Springs Coalition; and

WHEREAS, local citizen leaders from the Austin Sierra Club, Citizen Action, Clean Water Action, Hill Country Foundation, Save Barton Creek Association, Travis Audubon Society, and We Care Austin formed and served on the Save Our Springs Coalition Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, the campaign to pass the Save Our Springs ordinance was supported by thousands of volunteers and contributors; by Austin Hispanic leaders organized as "Making Austin Stronger" (MAS); and by over 200 Austin business leaders and professionals organized as Austin Business Leaders for the Environment (ABLE); and

WHEREAS, the Save Our Springs campaign and overwhelming approval by Austin voters established the principle that protecting Barton Springs and the natural heritage of Austin is important to sustaining a healthy and prosperous economy; and

WHEREAS, the Save Our Springs ordinance was upheld by the Texas Supreme Court as a valid municipal ordinance and continues in effect today; and

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council and the community have worked together to achieve the goals of the Save Our Springs ordinance by, among other efforts, protecting over 15,000 acres of Barton Springs watershed land by purchase of land and conservation easements and directing urban development to other "desired development" areas of our city; and

WHEREAS, while much progress has been made to protect Barton Springs and the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer, the quality and quantity of Barton Springs flows have been diminished by urban and suburban development in southern Travis and northern Hays counties over the last twenty-years, and much work remains to be done to assure that Barton Springs and the Aquifer are protected into the future; and

WHEREAS, an annual event at Barton Springs Pool could provide significant continuing education about the natural and cultural value of Barton Springs and the Edwards Aquifer, as well as raise awareness about the importance of protecting the Springs; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The Austin City Council hereby declares the second Saturday in August as Barton Springs Fest, to be celebrated at Barton Springs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Barton Springs Fest will be held annually to provide education to all interested persons about Barton Springs, the Edwards Aquifer and its contributing watersheds.

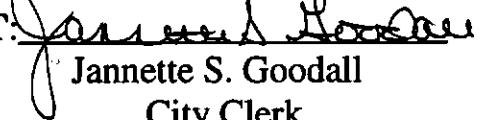
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

In recognition of Barton Springs Fest, Barton Springs shall be open for free admission until 2pm to everyone on the second Saturday of August.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Austin City Council hereby expresses its renewed commitment to working with the citizens of Austin and others to protect Barton Springs and the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer from pollution and excessive groundwater pumping.

ADOPTED: May 23, 2013

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk