

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the science of brain development has demonstrated that infants' brains develop rapidly and that early experiences are important; and

WHEREAS, creating environments that support healthy brain development during the first five years of life helps to build a strong foundation for future learning, health, and behavior; and

WHEREAS, investing in quality early childhood programs produces economic benefits and depending on the intervention, the return on a one dollar investment in early childhood programs can yield a \$4.10-\$9.20 return on investment; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2007 Economic Policy Institute report, accessible, high-quality early education would have an enormous impact on local, state, and federal budgets by reducing child abuse, welfare costs, crime, and remedial education; and

WHEREAS, quality early education promotes success in school and the development of attributes such as motivation and attention; and

WHEREAS, the local early childhood community worked collaboratively under the direction of United Way to create the School Readiness Action Plan for Austin/Travis County (SRAP); and

WHEREAS, the SRAP consists of shared goals, strategies, and performance measures which were widely vetted and carefully prioritized during the planning process; and

WHEREAS, the SRAP has been endorsed by:

- City of Austin Early Childhood Council
- City of Austin Women's Commission
- Austin Association for the Education of Young Children
- Children and Youth Mental Health Planning Partnership
- Literacy Coalition of Central Texas
- One Voice Austin
- Texas Early Care and Education Coalition; and

WHEREAS, early childhood education is recognized nationally as a critical component of a successful society, including the recently unveiled "Too Small to Fail" initiative announced by the Clinton Foundation; **NOW THEREFORE**,

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

The Austin City Council endorses the School Readiness Action Plan for Austin/Travis County (SRAP); and the City Manager is directed to develop a process to require agencies that receive City of Austin funding for early childhood services to report to the City about how their services address the SRAP goals.

ADOPTED: _____, 2013 **ATTEST:** _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk