RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2013 the Supreme Court struck down portions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, the legislature of the State of Texas passed a bill requiring voters to present identification when voting; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin finds that this requirement may present a barrier to eligible citizens who intend to vote, especially minorities and those who may have recently moved or gotten married or divorced and may not realize that they need to update their identification; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin intends to assist Austin residents to exercise their constitutionally protected right to vote; and

WHEREAS, a lawsuit has been filed against Texas' Voter Identification law in United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas by U.S. Representative Marc Veasey (D-FW) (Cause Number 2:13-cv-0019, Veasey, et al. v. Perry); and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice has indicated that it will sue the State of Texas to challenge the voter ID law; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

That the City Manager is hereby directed to pursue legal remedies to protect Austin citizens' voting rights through appropriate participation in these lawsuits on behalf of Austin's citizens.

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The City Manager is further directed, as these lawsuits are processed, to work together with other jurisdictions, including but not limited to the Travis and Williamson County Clerks, Travis and Williamson Counties, the Travis and Williamson County Tax Assessor-Collectors, Austin Community College, and others as appropriate to educate citizens about the identification requirement and to direct them to where they can get identification. Further, the City Manager should assess the potential for any city assistance with actual provision of identifications to citizens, e.g providing locations for provision of IDs, and to consider financial participation with the other jurisdictions to assist with education efforts.

The City Manager is also directed to use all resources already available to the City to help educate citizens, including but not limited to inserts in utility bills, social media, the City website and Channel 6.

ADOPTED: _____, 2013 **ATTEST:** _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

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