

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin vision includes every Austin resident having an opportunity to be fully engaged in digital society, accessing and using digital and communications technology; and

WHEREAS, increasingly, digital engagement is a requirement to fully participate in many elements of society including education, health care, civic engagement, job opportunities and social connections; and

WHEREAS, “Building Digital Communities – Getting Started”, developed by the International City/County Management Association, the W Technology and Social Change Group, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services with input from over 100 organizations and individuals, outlines a framework to foster digital inclusion including:

- Access Principles of Availability, Affordability, Design for Inclusion
- Adoption Principles of Public Access, Relevance, Digital Literacy, Consumer Safety; and

WHEREAS, Austin has several city and community resources that help to achieve a vision of digital inclusion, including support by the City of Austin through the Grant for Technology Opportunities (GTOPS), the newly created Innovation Office, and partnerships with local non-profits; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is currently undertaking a residential technology survey to evaluate and assess residents' access to technology resources and literacy and training programs and to identify unmet needs and barriers; and

WHEREAS, a Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan based upon the outcomes of the residential technology survey will allow the city and community to set goals, inventory resources, identify gaps in services and develop a roadmap to reach the adopted goals; and

WHEREAS, the City can leverage assets, such as fiber networks, to deploy/support community digital inclusion programs and services in the most needed communities in partnership with other agencies, nonprofits, and the private sector; and

WHEREAS, the City works with the University of Texas at Austin in a joint effort to examine the digital divide in Austin communities, in which UT performs the data collection and analysis while the City sets research goals and oversees implementation; and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2014, the Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission (CTTC) created a working group on the residential technology survey and would be a key participant in developing a Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to work with CTTC and other relevant Commissions, community organizations and stakeholders to develop a Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan to address access and adoption of digital technology, to serve as a guiding document for providing digital inclusion opportunities in effecting the City's goals to ensure all Austin residents are served; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to present the recommended Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan to the CTTC, the Emerging Technology and Telecommunications Council Committee and the City Council for consideration by October 23, 2014.

ADOPTED: _____, 2014 **ATTEST:** _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk