

RESOLUTION NO. 20141023-030

WHEREAS, Austin values the time, talent and resources of its residents and benefits when the energy and ideas of the community are leveraged to achieve positive public outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the concept of crowdfunding seeks to raise ideas and capital from a large number of individuals innovating, volunteering or donating in relatively small amounts using internet-based platforms in an environment of high mutual visibility among participants; and

WHEREAS, the term "crowdfunding" dates back only to 2006 and its utilization of the internet dates back to 1997, but the concept has many historical precedents for civic projects in the United States that encouraged participatory planning and further public participation in infrastructure both large and small; and

WHEREAS, crowdfunding platforms specifically for civic projects have begun to emerge, including those such as Spacehive, ioby, CitizInvenstor and Patroncity, as well as general-interest platforms, like Kickstarter and IndieGoGo, where civic projects are among the most successful at meeting their goals; and

WHEREAS, the City operates the popular and successful Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP), providing opportunities for community and neighborhood organizations to affect public improvements by sharing in the costs of those efforts with the City; and

WHEREAS, some of the challenges faced by the NPP are public awareness of projects, accessing larger communities of interest, and facilitating fundraising for groups with fewer resources, particularly those in lower-income neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the ability of the NPP to fund its administration and public match would benefit from having a fund set up to accept general as well as project specific donations from the public; **NOW THEREFORE**,

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

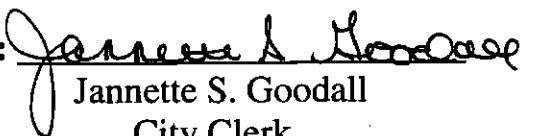
The City Manager is directed to explore the feasibility of using civic crowdfunding as an option for funding projects and to identify a pilot project with the Neighborhood Partnering Program to use crowdfunding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to establish a fund for the Neighborhood Partnering Program that can accept donations from the public for the general use of the program and its public purpose.

ADOPTED: October 23, 2014

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk