

RESOLUTION NO. 20150226-036

WHEREAS, the cost of health care services is often unaffordable without insurance except for those wealthy enough to self-insure; and

WHEREAS, many employed persons in Austin have incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid and/or are not eligible for Medicaid covered categories (for example, single childless adults are generally not eligible for Medicaid benefits) yet have incomes below the income guidelines to qualify for subsidies under the Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, many other employed persons in Austin who do qualify for coverage under the Affordable Care Act do not obtain coverage because the monthly premiums are unaffordable at their income levels, even with the assistance of a subsidy; and

WHEREAS, those without access to affordable preventive and early intervention health care services, such as screenings and a family doctor's care, are more likely to suffer from chronic illness and serious complications, and are at greater risk for hospitalization; and

WHEREAS, healthy workers are more productive and miss less work time, lowering costs to both workers and the employer, and

WHEREAS, the City incurs costs of services for uninsured Austinites, for example ambulance and emergency services, and public health services; and

WHEREAS, the City offers coverage to some City employees in recognition of the value of their labor, but does not provide this benefit to all City workers; and

WHEREAS, council requires additional information related to the City's estimated cost of offering health care coverage to all City workers in order to consider that cost in the context of the City's costs due to lack of insurance coverage for these workers; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Manager is directed to deliver a report on the status of health care coverage for persons working for all entities of the City, including part-time employees, temporary employees, and contract workers, and identify any other category of worker or employee not receiving health care coverage, but not to include persons working with separate companies who hold contracts with the city, nor to include City employees currently offered coverage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

This report will include the definition and description of each of the above categories, (e.g. part-time employees, temporary employees, and contract workers, any other identified categories of worker or employee, not to include persons working with separate companies who hold contracts with the City, nor to include City employees currently offered coverage) clearly defining what determines whether a worker falls into one of the identified categories; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

This report will estimate by survey, or similar accepted methodology, the number of workers in the targeted categories who currently obtain health care coverage from a non-employment related source (e.g., a spouse, Affordable Care Act, or some other source); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

This report will attempt to estimate costs incurred by the City related to uninsured City workers and will, at a minimum, identify the source of those costs, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

This report will estimate the additional cost of adding each category of worker, accounting for economy of scale during the next budget cycle, and providing health care coverage to all persons working for the City in all categories, including all City entities,

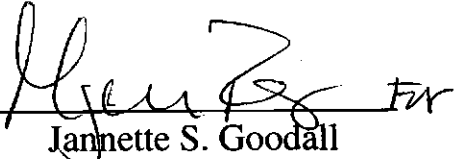
such as, but not limited to, Austin Energy and Austin Water Utility, excluding any persons working with separate companies who hold contracts with the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to, within 60 days, deliver this report to council. Further, council assigns the issue of offering coverage to all city workers in the next budget cycle to the Audit and Finance Committee for consideration and report back to the full council.

ADOPTED: February 26, 2015

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk