

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council acknowledges a significant municipal purpose in the promotion of Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) services to enhance the health, welfare, and development of Austin's children; and

WHEREAS, the success of Austin's schools directly impacts the long-term health, welfare, and prosperity of Austin's families, neighborhoods, and economy; and

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council adopted Resolution No. 20110217-048 to identify partnership opportunities with the Austin Independent School District (AISD) to foster success in Austin's schools; and

WHEREAS, Pre-K programs build a foundation of academic and social skills needed for children's success in schools, which includes demonstrated success in advancing literacy, communication skills, and problem solving; and

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council adopted Resolution 20140807-105, which directed the City Manager to coordinate communication efforts with AISD and other community organizations in promoting the enrollment of Pre-K programs for the 2014-2015 school year; and

WHEREAS, the boundaries of the City of Austin include a number of independent school districts, and coordination with each of these districts is important to promote the health, welfare, and development of all Austin's children; and

WHEREAS, Pre-K enrollment declined for the 2014-2015 school year while the needs for childhood development programs have increased, particularly among low-income and Hispanic communities; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1,500 students in Travis County alone are eligible for Pre-K but are not currently attending; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

That the City Manager is directed to coordinate with all of the school districts within its city limits and other community organizations to promote Pre-K enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year and subsequent school years. The coordinated enrollment efforts should include, at minimum:

- referrals through resident information services, such as 2-1-1, 3-1-1, and social media;
- posting literature in libraries, community centers, and other city-owned facilities used by families with young children;
- referrals through programs that currently conduct income verification;
- referrals through programs that currently interact with low-income or limited English language proficiency families, such as Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) assistance, youth development services, and Fresh Food for Families; and
- utility bill inserts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Manager shall report back to the Early Childhood Council and the Health and Humans Services Committee of the City Council within 90 days regarding the efforts taken, the impact of those efforts, and future opportunities for enrollment in future school years.

ADOPTED: _____, 2015 **ATTEST:** _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk