

RESOLUTION NO. 20160211-018

WHEREAS, a growing number of homeless in Austin are single women or women with children, and fewer emergency shelter resources exist to serve these individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Salvation Army currently shelters both women and children at the Downtown Social Service Center and the Austin Shelter for Women and Children, and currently has more than 300 women and children on the call-back list in need of shelter; and

WHEREAS, families need a variety of supportive services to move from homelessness to self- sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, Passages is a six-agency collaboration funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that provides full time case management to assist families with housing, employment, job training, education, childcare, counseling, legal issues, and many other needs; and

WHEREAS, for the past 19 years, Passages has been an efficient and high-performing program that fills gaps in our continuum of care for homeless families without duplicating other efforts; and

WHEREAS, the annual HUD funding of \$548,330 for Passages includes \$153,450 for subsidized child care for children ranging in age from newborn through 12 years; and

WHEREAS, the Passages Child Care Voucher Program has annually enabled 75 to 95 Austin children to receive care from licensed day care and out of school care arrangements that allow their parents, mostly single women, to earn income and increase their marketable skills through job training; and

WHEREAS, new federal guidelines will eliminate HUD funding for supportive services for Passages, including childcare and housing assistance beginning on July 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, this loss of funding will create a serious shortage of stop-gap child care for homeless families in Austin; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2015, the Early Childhood Council of the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Division recommended that ongoing funding in the amount of \$160,000 be allocated toward protecting families in the Passages program from losing child care services, which was not incorporated into the 2015-2016 budget;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

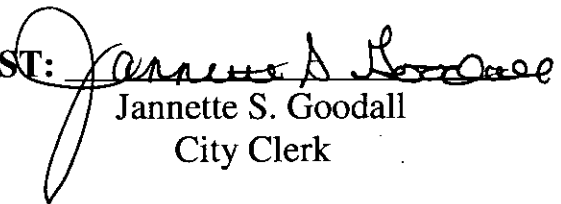
That the City Manager is directed to identify ongoing funding in the amount of \$160,000 for childcare services for families in the Passages Program and bring an item for Council consideration no later than February 25, 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Manager is directed to explore whether additional funds exist that could be directed toward gaps in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Salvation Army budget, including funding for rental assistance, case management, housing search and placement, utility deposits, and transportation and report back to City Council by March 4, 2016.

ADOPTED: February 11, 2016

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk