

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the return of the Trail of Lights event (“Event”) in 2012 after a three year absence was met with a resounding welcome by the greater Austin area and highly attended with over 400,000 visitors annually; and

WHEREAS, the Event is produced by the Trail of Lights Foundation (“Foundation”) as a family-friendly lighted holiday-themed trail with entertainment provided by local school children and talent; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation continues to host special recognition nights with various local community groups and local non-profits, and provides free admittance and accommodations to low-income and special needs individuals through the Foundation’s initiative and programming; and

WHEREAS, several full-time employees and nearly 100 seasonal employees are hired by the Foundation for the Event, as well as numerous local artists and food vendors; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation will fund, plan, produce, market and manage the multi-night Event including a 5K run, as well as cover all Event costs including paying the City for all of its direct expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation has continually engaged surrounding neighborhoods and various stakeholders to discuss Event aspects including the schedule, transportation and consolidation of set up and take down activities to maximize public access to Zilker Park; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation has demonstrated the success and need to have flexibility in collection of entry fees as described in this Resolution to ensure the

Event's financial sustainability, while providing free entrance for the Event's opening night and those who ride shuttles to the Event; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation has demonstrated the need to establish and build a contingency fund to help keep the Event solvent in the event of weather or economic conditions that would otherwise threaten the viability of the Event, and negatively impact the taxpayer by requiring the City to produce the Event; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

Resolution No. 20151015-035 is hereby amended to repeal the provisions related to yearly Council approval of admission fees to the Event, and the City Council authorizes the Foundation annually to charge admission for no more than one half of the total public Event nights; provided that gate entrance to the Event's public opening night and for shuttle riders remains free of charge.

ADOPTED: _____, 2016

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk