



City of Austin Council Members:

August 30, 2017

We, the Board of Directors of Austin CityUP Consortium, support the resolution submitted by Council Member Ann Kitchen to develop recommendations for engaging the community in alternatives to activities such as “panhandling” with more effective and positive interactions with people experiencing homelessness.

We strongly support the development of programs and funding to focus on reducing homelessness and providing services to residents in need through community engagement and mobile device technologies. Austin CityUP members are currently developing an affordable housing app designed to: provide real-time prioritized lists of affordable options to residents with housing vouchers; provide local housing authority with data and insights to monitor community housing and determine policies; and to incentivize owners and investors to provide affordable options that are profitable and sustainable. We also support the local development of programs like Samaritan’s Give Safe program which uses Bluetooth technology and beacon devices to enable direct support of those suffering homelessness.

We look forward to working with the community and with the City of Austin to reduce homelessness in our community and achieving affordable options for all residents.

Sincerely,

Austin CityUP Board of Directors

Jay Boisseau, President

Ron Baker, Secretary

Chris Blanding, VP for Government Engagement

Christian Carlson, VP for Government Engagement

Rob Cohan, VP for Project Development

Brian Dietrich, VP for Funding

Sheri Greenberg, VP for Government Engagement

Joe Iannello, VP for Membership

Rob Silverberg, VP for Project Development