

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Austin Resource Center for Homelessness (ARCH) is a City-owned facility; and

WHEREAS, the ARCH is privately managed through a contract overseen by the Public Health Department; and

WHEREAS, the current contract expires in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Ending Community Homelessness Coalitions (ECHO) annual Point in Time Count data between January 2015 and January 2017 revealed that the number of unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in the Downtown area has increased by 50% and in Austin by 25%; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 Point in Time count showed that there are at least 176 unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness within one-quarter mile of the ARCH; and

WHEREAS, during this time, the Salvation Army and the ARCH nighttime shelters were at capacity of approximately 500 individuals; and

WHEREAS, the ARCH consistently exceeds its built capacity in terms of the number of individuals served with shelter and daytime programs; and

WHEREAS, in February of 2017, various stakeholders began to develop a community plan to “right size” the ARCH; and

WHEREAS, in March of 2017, ECHO completed the report, “The Austin Agreement to End Homelessness,” which included the recommendation to “right-size” the ARCH; and

WHEREAS, on May 5th, 2017, the City Council voted to approve \$1,250,000 in grant funds from Bloomberg Philanthropies for the implementation of the Innovation Team “i-Team” program; and

WHEREAS, the “i-Team” aims to dramatically increase efforts furthering Council’s priority focus on ending homelessness, and assist in developing recommendations to address homelessness in Austin; and

WHEREAS, ECHO, Front Steps, Salvation Army, Caritas, the Downtown Austin Alliance, Austin Public Health, Travis County Integral Care, Downtown Austin Community Court, the Homelessness Outreach Street Team (HOST), Austin Police Department, the Innovation Office, and other stakeholders implemented a pilot program on August 15, 2017, to improve the safety and health conditions of individuals seeking services through a variety of strategies, many of which have yielded positive outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Public Health Department must conduct the appropriate Request for Qualifications/Request for Proposals (RFQ/RFP) bidding process for the next contract period; **NOW, THEREFORE:**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL:

The City Manager is directed to conduct a stakeholder engagement process to redefine the scope of the ARCH and to identify a process for rebidding the ARCH contract that best serves the interests of the clients, the public, and the City within the timeframe needed to effectively conduct an RFQ/RFP process for the upcoming contract period.

This engagement process should focus on the goal of allowing the ARCH to operate within its intended built capacity. Stakeholders should include but not be limited to: current and previous ARCH clients, social service providers, and other impacted and interested stakeholders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The revised scope should take into account recommendations of individuals who have previously experienced homelessness and sought services at the ARCH, as well as recommendations from ECHO's March 2017 "The Austin Agreement to End Homelessness" report, the Bloomberg i-Team, the stakeholders who

participated in the August pilot initiative, and any other stakeholders or recommendations that the City Manager deems appropriate.

The City Manager is directed to explore the feasibility of contracting with a consultant such as the National Alliance to End Homelessness to provide input and recommendations.

ADOPTED: _____, 2017

ATTEST: _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk