

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, Ending Community Homelessness Organization (ECHO)'s 2017 Point in Time data found that 834 individuals in Austin and Travis County sleep outdoors, 832 individuals sleep in shelters and safe havens that are consistently at capacity, and 370 individuals currently reside in time-limited transitional housing and urgently need permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, ECHO's 2017 "Austin's Action Plan to End Homelessness" describes permanent supportive housing as housing that combines continuous "affordable housing assistance with voluntary support services to address the needs of persons with complex mental or physical health, addictions, or cognitive challenges;" and

WHEREAS, the services provided to households in permanent supportive housing create and enhance independent living and tenancy skills and are offered in conjunction with a range of other services, including employment training, substance treatment, and healthcare; and

WHEREAS, permanent supportive housing is one of the most successful strategies for ending chronic homelessness; and

WHEREAS, according to ECHO, "low-barrier" approaches to permanent supportive housing focus on "providing individuals experiencing homelessness with appropriate housing quickly, regardless of potential housing barriers, and then providing support services as needed; and

WHEREAS, ECHO has acquired funding sufficient to provide wraparound case management services (holistic services that include not only housing

assistance, but such assistance as mental health, drug abuse, and employment services as well) to eligible households once they move into permanent supportive housing; however, these households still require low-barrier permanent supportive housing vouchers to successfully secure lease agreements; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 20130627-105 repealed the Central Urban Redevelopment (CURE) combining district in the Downtown area and replaced it with Section 25-2-586, which solidified the details and requirements of the Downtown Density Bonus Program; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 20130808-019 amended Ordinance 20130627-105 to ensure that money generated by the Downtown Density Bonus Program would be allocated for “permanent supportive housing for low-barrier approaches for the chronically homeless;” and

WHEREAS, Council direction is required for the Downtown Density Bonus Program funds to be utilized for low-barrier permanent supportive housing vouchers; **NOW, THEREFORE:**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL:

The City Manager is directed to allocate funds from the Downtown Density Bonus Program for low-barrier permanent supportive housing vouchers as well as to identify any other eligible funds that could be used for such a purpose and to report back to Council by December 5, 2017 with an update on this action’s progress and impact.

ADOPTED: _____, 2017

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk