

RESOLUTION NO. 20190131-078

WHEREAS, homelessness is identified as a strategic outcome indicator in “Austin Strategic Direction 2023” and was identified by the City Council as the top priority for the city’s Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the “Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint” Key Actions include “Investing in Housing for Those Most in Need,” which calls for Austin to adopt a balanced approach to provide affordable housing resources for low-income workers, seniors, people with disabilities and the thousands of people experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Austin’s Action Plan to End Homelessness (“Action Plan”) states that outreach, shelter and transitional housing are the critical front line of our community’s efforts to ending homelessness, helping people meet basic survival needs while helping connect them to housing resources and other services; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2018 Point-in-Time Count the number of persons experiencing homelessness rose 5% from 2017 to 2018, while the number of persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness rose 21.6% from 2017 to 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Action Plan recognizes that there are not enough emergency shelter beds available to people who need them, resulting in people being turned away or not even attempting to ask for a bed in shelters; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20170810-033 directed the City Manager to assess City-owned buildings and identify at least five possibilities for one or more temporary, short-term emergency shelters and to provide the Council with cost estimates for operation and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, an increasing number of Austin residents living unsheltered, experiencing exposure, malnutrition, and unhygienic conditions increases the likelihood of victimization, poor physical and mental health, and public health consequences; and

WHEREAS, the National Alliance to End Homelessness views shelter as a key component to our homeless response system; and

WHEREAS, the Action Plan proposes more shelters and day services, providing safe places for people to be during the day as well as overnight allowing consistent contact with service providers and the ability to more quickly move to stable housing; and

WHEREAS, the Action Plan recognizes that clients receiving shelter services must have access to affordable, low-barrier housing in order to end their homelessness; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Council directs the City Manager to take steps necessary to inform and prepare for the implementation of the Report described below. Such steps shall include preparing to purchase or lease and make ready a fabric membrane structure or other building structure, including an existing structure, which is appropriate for, and dedicated

to piloting immediate shelter and support services for those experiencing homelessness with the intent of providing a pathway to permanent housing. The structure will be placed or located on property owned by the City or property owned by an entity partnering with the City, but not directly adjacent to existing residential neighborhoods. An exception to this restriction would be allowed if the adjacent neighborhood approved of the use.

The City Council further directs the City Manager to make the structure and services available for use on or before September 30, 2019, after completion of the Report and only after any necessary spending authorization by Council on May 23, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council directs the City Manager to provide it a Report on or before May 2, 2019, about the best options for piloting immediate shelter and support services for those experiencing homelessness with the intent of providing a pathway to permanent housing. The Report shall identify the partners and City departments which will collaborate to implement the delivery of shelter and support services; the scope, type, and parameters of services; costs associated with such shelter and support services; and opportunities for private and philanthropic partners to contribute to such costs (hereinafter referred to as "Report"). The Report will also identify the target population, the referral process, the support services, the particular safety needs of and services for women and women accompanied by children, enrollment in housing programs, a process and metrics for measuring success, and the costs associated with this shelter to housing concept.

The City Council further directs the City Manager to develop the Report on the pilot in collaboration with agencies and City departments currently serving individuals experiencing homelessness and funding homelessness programs in Austin. This collaboration will include discussions with the National Alliance to End Homelessness about best practices for shelter operations and standards and shelter as a key component to our homeless response system. These discussions will address how people are identified to stay in the shelter and how they are to be connected to support services and housing programs.

Additionally, the City Council directs the City Manager to place any contracts or spending documents or other options for spending that require City Council approval and are necessary for implementation on the May 23, 2019, City Council Meeting Agenda.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council directs the City Manager to complete the steps described in this resolution according to the following timeline:

- submit the Report to City Council on or before May 2, 2019;
 - place any contracts or spending documents or other options for spending which are necessary for implementation and require Council approval on the May 23, 2019 Council Agenda;
 - make the structure and services available for use on or before September 30, 2019;
- and

- expedite the contracting for and procurement of services to meet the September 30 deadline.

ADOPTED: January 31, 2019

ATTEST: Jannette S. Goodall
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk