

5-6-04
#24

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, a group of citizens has proposed the creation of a hospital district for Travis County pursuant to Section 281 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and the Commissioners Court of Travis County has duly called an election for May 15, 2004 in accordance with the requirements of law; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Austin believes that the creation of a countywide hospital district in Travis County is in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Austin and Travis County and will strengthen our community healthcare system in Travis County; and,

WHEREAS, both the City Council and the Travis County Commissioners Court recognize that the appointment of the Board of Managers and assuring the availability of experienced community healthcare employees to continue the provision of quality healthcare services is of paramount importance in the establishment of a hospital district; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a countywide hospital district will require the appointment by the City Council and the Travis County Commissioners Court of a nine (9) member hospital district Board of Managers; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Travis County Commissioners Court desire to assure each other and the public that the persons appointed to the Board of Managers of the proposed hospital district will be well qualified for service to this community; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a countywide hospital district may result in employees of the City of Austin and Travis County in community healthcare changing their employment to the new hospital district or another entity providing community healthcare services to the hospital district; and

WHEREAS, the continued employment of the City and Travis County employees to provide community healthcare services is of great importance to quality healthcare services in central Texas; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the interests of both the City of Austin and the City of Austin Employee Retirement System that current City of Austin health care employees continue their full membership in the System; and

WHEREAS, the group of citizens proposing the creation of a hospital district recommend that those City and Travis County employees be offered employment by the hospital district or any other entity providing community healthcare services to the hospital district with comparable pay, retirement and employee benefits that they currently receive; and

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Travis County Commissioners Court also desire that the creation of a new hospital district will not adversely affect those employees' pay and benefits; **NOW THEREFORE**,

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

That should a countywide hospital district be created for Travis County as a result of the election scheduled on May 15, 2004, the City of Austin and the Travis County Commissioners Court shall work collaboratively to establish a process for the selection of members to the Board of Managers of the new hospital district which provides for public input into the appointment process; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the persons appointed to the Board of Managers of the hospital district shall be broadly representative of the citizens of Travis County and the City of Austin, and shall satisfy standards of independence from conflicts of interest to be jointly developed in detail by Travis County and the City of Austin prior to the appointment of such Board of Managers; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the persons appointed to the Board of Managers of the hospital district shall include one or more health care professionals, and shall also include persons having demonstrated expertise and experience in matters deemed relevant by the Commissioners Court of Travis County and the City Council of the City of Austin such as healthcare operations

and/or administration, business management, accounting, human resource management, and business or public finance; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the hospital district is created and there is transferred to the hospital district operational responsibility for the medical clinics or medical assistance programs currently operated by the City of Austin or Travis County, the Board of Managers of the hospital district is strongly urged, as part of its transition planning, to implement appropriate means of providing comparable pay, continuing membership in their respective retirement systems, and other benefits to the employees who change from employment with the City of Austin or Travis County to the District or other entity.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council directs the City Manager and her staff to work jointly with the County, the Board of Managers, and the Employee Retirement System to effect the goals described above through an interlocal agreement or other appropriate arrangement.

ADOPTED: _____, 2004 **ATTEST:** _____
Shirley A. Brown
City Clerk

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Atty: Sally Henly