

3-11-04  
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**RESOLUTION NO. 04**

**WHEREAS**, the City established Brackenridge and Children's Hospitals, which became the foundation for trauma, care and children's care in Travis County and surrounding counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and Travis County have for many years invested funds to provide ~~all their~~ residents with access to hospital and certain other health care services, both through Brackenridge and Children's Hospitals and through a system of clinics and medical assistance programs; and

**WHEREAS**, ever tighter budget constraints at the federal and state level require local communities to shoulder more of the burden of supporting trauma centers and providing adequate access to health care services for all residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the current structure unfairly burdens those Travis County taxpayers who live in the City, and such unfairness will significantly impair the ability of the community to preserve access to quality trauma and other hospital and health care services;

**WHEREAS**, citizens of the City and Travis County formed a community wide steering committee in 2002 to consider alternative methods of ensuring the continued viability of Brackenridge Hospital as a regional trauma center and access to health care services for ~~all~~ residents of Austin and Travis County, including the possibility of creating a hospital/health care district for Travis County and possibly for other counties in Central Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, the community steering committee reached the conclusion that it is important to have a single, county-wide government entity responsible for the ~~public side of our region's~~ provision of health care as public-private health care partnerships as the public component deliver system, including having a single taxing jurisdiction that is county-wide; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2003 the Texas Legislature amended state law to authorize a hospital district that meets the special needs of the City and Travis County; and

**WHEREAS**, a valid petition of voters calling for a hospital district election has been presented to the Travis County Commissioners Court; and

**WHEREAS**, the Travis County Commissioners Court has called an election to consider the creation of a hospital district in Travis County for May 15, 2004; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin has evaluated the creation of a hospital district and determined that it is a necessary step to meet the challenge of decreased federal and state support, to ensure a viable regional trauma center in Austin, to support the community's pediatric care, and to provide access for all residents of the City of Austin and Travis County to hospital and medical services, which is important to the area's employers and economic growth,

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Council supports the election in May for the residents of Travis County to vote on a Travis County hospital district; and

The City Council supports the creation of a Travis County hospital district for the reasons stated above.

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

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Attorney: Sally Henly\j