

RESOLUTION NO. 20160128-067

WHEREAS, public toilets have both societal and environmental benefits;
and

WHEREAS, strategically located 24-hour restrooms could provide a benefit to families with young children, seniors, bikers, runners, homeless individuals, and late night crowds who enter the streets when the bars close; and

WHEREAS, four Austin watersheds have elevated levels of bacteria that may indicate an increased health risk for swimming or wading in the waters; and

WHEREAS, the provision of outdoor toilets is included as a voluntary bacteria-reduction measure in the City of Austin's Implementation Plan for the reduction of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of bacteria in Austin watersheds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland, Oregon, has developed a successful model of an environmentally sustainable, durable, and functional 24-hour toilet that could serve as a model for the City of Austin to consider; and

WHEREAS, such facilities typically cost between \$90,000 and \$150,000, and opportunities exist to share costs with other organizations; and

WHEREAS, the areas of Downtown and The University of Texas at Austin have been identified as possible locations for public toilets, and Downtown stakeholders have already begun exploring the idea; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

That the City Manager is directed to convene relevant Downtown stakeholders including the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless and Front Steps, Caritas, the Salvation Army, the American Association of Retired Persons, the Downtown Austin Alliance, the Waller Creek Conservancy, the downtown cluster of congregations and social service providers, and other providers offering resources to the homeless, as well as relevant City departments, including the Development Services Department, Austin Water Utility, Health and Human Services Department, Austin Police Department, and Austin Resource Recovery to make recommendations about options, locations, and funding for the provision of safe, durable, 24-hour free public toilets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Manager is directed to compile information on publicly accessible toilets located on City property in the Downtown area and report how the City might be able to make them available to the public 24 hours per day.

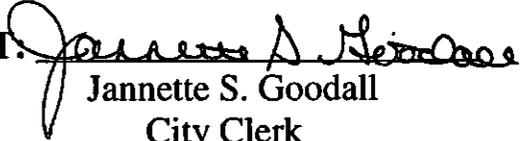
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Manager is directed to work with stakeholders to map the locations of all publicly accessible 24-hour toilets located on City property in the Downtown area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Manager shall report back to the Health and Human Services Committee at its March meeting with recommendations for moving forward with a pilot project for Downtown public toilets.

ADOPTED: January 28, 2016

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk