

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, the Texas Workforce Commission estimates Austin's number of unemployed to be more than 28,000 for April 2010; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to helping create a variety of job opportunities for Austinites from different socio-economic backgrounds and with varying levels of skill; and

WHEREAS, over 97% of businesses in the Austin MSA have fewer than 100 employees; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to the continued success of our locally owned small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the recent extended economic downturn has contributed to a difficult job market and a tight credit market for small businesses looking to expand; and

WHEREAS, Austin's workforce development organizations have made significant progress on teaching industry-specific work skills to Austin's unemployed workforce; and

WHEREAS, organizations in Austin that offer entrepreneurship training, as well as the City's Small Business Development Program, have been successful in teaching many people how to start and run their own small businesses; and

WHEREAS, federal funding and other grants are available for innovative partnerships that leverage existing community resources and City programs to create job opportunities for the economically disadvantaged and others with barriers to employment; and

WHEREAS, a pilot program could include teaching program participants financial literacy and small business start-up skills, as well as significant on-the-job experience; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is well positioned to facilitate creation of a pilot program utilizing the expertise of community groups, and apply for funding needed to implement this pilot program; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to:

1. Establish a stakeholder group including Austin Community College, workforce development organizations, non-profit groups that offer small business and entrepreneurial programs, small business alliances and local chambers of commerce, and other community leaders; and
2. Convene the stakeholder group to develop a program curriculum that incorporates:

- a. classes dedicated to financial literacy development and skills needed to start a small business, and
- b. a significant amount of hands-on work experience in small businesses.

The City Manager is further directed to provide additional assistance to this effort, including:

- 3. Research federal funding and other grant opportunities that are available for this type of program; and
- 4. Apply for appropriate funding options to implement the pilot program.

The City Manager shall provide Council with an interim progress report on or before October 28, 2010 and shall present a final presentation to Council on or before December 9, 2010.

ADOPTED: _____, 2010

ATTEST: _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk