

RESOLUTION NO. 20170504-039

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is recognized as an innovative and technologically forward city; and

WHEREAS, the City is proud to be a place where new technology is developed and tested; and

WHEREAS, Starship Technologies (“Starship”), a technology company started by the founders of the video communications company SKYPE, has developed a sustainable delivery device that aims to transform local last-mile delivery services; and

WHEREAS, Starship’s robots use sidewalks to deliver packages of up to 20 pounds from different businesses; and

WHEREAS, the robots are 99 percent autonomous and recognize obstructions during delivery including adults, children, pets, poles, traffic signals, and other items commonly found on sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, the robots are electrically powered and emit zero carbon dioxide; and

WHEREAS, a pilot project in the City could limit some car-based delivery trips; and

WHEREAS, Starship conducted a one-week demonstration of the robot technology in the Mueller Community in July 2016; and

WHEREAS, the company is currently conducting long-term pilot projects in Washington, D.C. and Silicon Valley; and


WHEREAS, Starship has approached the City about conducting a long-term pilot; and

WHEREAS, the City could benefit from testing such technology; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to explore the robotic delivery model offered by Starship or similar companies, to analyze what city code amendments or other actions might be required to test such a pilot program in the City, and to make a recommendation to Council by June 30, 2017.

ADOPTED: May 4, 2017

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk