RESOLUTION NO. 20180308-010

WHEREAS, intense development pressures and gentrification have led to the displacement of long-time Austin residents and families from their established communities; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2.1. of the Institutional Racism and Systemic Inequities Task Force’s report encourages the City of Austin to “adopt an Austin version of Portland’s criteria for bringing former residents back to gentrified areas”; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force report encourages the City to work with the City Attorney’s office and the Equity Office to formulate a policy that will encourage displaced households to have additional opportunities to return to Austin; and

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council approved Resolution No. 20170817-053, which created a residents’ anti-displacement task force, to be referred to as “Anti-Displacement Task Force,” to review and recommend specific strategies for displacement prevention.

WHEREAS, Council approved Resolution No. 20170817-055 to negotiate an interlocal with The University of Texas to conduct a study of gentrification within Austin, including the mapping of vulnerable neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Council approved the execution of the interlocal on September 28, 2017; and

WHEREAS, this study’s data could inform the legal assessment and tenets of a “right to return” policy; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:
The Council directs the City Manager to propose a preference policy that relates to the distribution of affordable housing units for low- and moderate-income households based on generational ties to the City. The proposed policy must be designed to further the City’s obligation to affirmatively further fair housing and should include a method to prioritize the waitlist for programs and resources, such as homeownership and rental assistance programs, for low- and moderate-income households who are displaced.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Council directs the City Manager to propose a preference policy that relates to the distribution of affordable housing units for low- and moderate-income households based on household size. The proposed policy must be designed to further the City’s obligation to affirmatively further fair housing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Council directs the City Manager to analyze each proposed policy for operational and legal issues; and to provide Council and the Anti-Displacement Task Force with the analysis no later than May 25, 2018.

ADOPTED: March 8, 2018 ATTEST: Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk