

RESOLUTION NO. 20180614-066

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan established a priority of creating a Healthy Austin Program that would increase healthy behaviors and improve coordination between the Austin Public Health Department, other departments within the City and counties, nonprofit organizations, and the community; and

WHEREAS, City Council adopted a strategic direction setting a key outcome experienced by the Austin community of enjoying a sustainable environment and a healthy life, both physically and mentally; and

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2018, the City Council affirmed its commitment to help create opportunities for our most vulnerable neighbors to attain a pathway out of homelessness and endorsed "Austin's Action Plan to End Homelessness" prepared by the Ending Community Homelessness Organization (ECHO), delineates five critical methods to effectively end homelessness:

- 1) Outreach services and shelters;
- 2) Addressing disparities;
- 3) Providing housing and support services;
- 4) Strengthening our response system; and
- 5) Building community commitment from both the public and private sectors.

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20180426-030 also highlights the ongoing interdepartmental work of city staff to best address homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) No. 17 was created, in partnership with Travis County, to fund the Waller Creek Tunnel to address flooding risk; and

WHEREAS, on May 24, 2018, the Austin City Council adopted Amendment No. 2 to TIRZ No. 17 that extended the City of Austin's dedication of tax increment revenues beyond 2028 and directed those funds towards the Waller Creek Chain of Parks project plan and related infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Travis County has not yet chosen to extend their participation in the TIRZ No. 17 beyond 2028, but expressed interest in a continuing supportive role in the Waller Creek area in regards to homelessness and housing initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the current estimated financing projections for TIRZ No. 17 may include undedicated funds; and

WHEREAS, investments made towards addressing homelessness and housing insecurity could benefit TIRZ No. 17 and therefore may be considered an allowable use of existing TIRZ funding and any additional increment generated by the TIRZ No. 17; and

WHEREAS, the City may utilize TIRZ funding on either a "pay as you go" basis or through debt financing, e.g., certificates of obligation for public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, if an amendment to the TIRZ financing plan includes funding of eligible infrastructure through debt financing, then the amendment will require review by bond counsel and may require review by the Public Finance Division of the Attorney General;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

The City Council directs the City Manager to analyze the feasibility of, and provide a recommended project plan, financing plan, and an amendment to Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone No. 17 that includes both pay as you go funding and options for issuance of certificates of obligation for funding of projects that both address the causes and symptoms of homelessness and housing insecurity and that are of benefit to the TIRZ area.

The analysis and recommendation should include, without limitation:

- An analysis of options for funding facilities, services, or other projects that would best address the health and safety outcomes for those experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity; This analysis should consider, without limitation, uses for City-owned property, including the Health South location, and the possible re-scoping of the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless;
- An analysis of whether revenues for these projects can come from the existing TIRZ No. 17, or from a modification of TIRZ No. 17, which took into account the additional benefits to the area that would arise from such investments;
- An analysis of finance and revenue options, including, but not limited to, “pay as you go,” certificates of obligation, and use of third party or complementary funding;
- A recommendation on a method for administration of the funds that achieves transparency, accountability, and appropriate governance of any TIRZ generated funding and projects to address homelessness and housing insecurity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Any proposed amendment to TIRZ No. 17 must supplement the existing and approved uses of the TIRZ funding, including the Waller Creek Tunnel and the Waller Creek Chain of Parks and related infrastructure approved by Council in Amendment No. 2 to TIRZ No. 17 on May 24, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to invite Travis County to consider a continuing contribution of the County's tax increment for TIRZ No. 17 beyond 2028 for the purposes of improving the health and safety outcomes for individuals in Travis County experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to review the possibility of directing supplemental funding from other Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones towards addressing homelessness and other housing initiatives.

ADOPTED: June 14, 2018 ATTEST: Jannette S. Goodall
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk