

1

3 **WHEREAS**, homelessness is identified as a strategic outcome indicator in “Austin
4 Strategic Direction 2023” and was identified by the City Council as the top priority for the
5 city’s Strategic Plan; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the “Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint” Key Actions include
7 “Investing in Housing for Those Most in Need,” which calls for Austin to adopt a balanced
8 approach to provide affordable housing resources for low-income workers, seniors, people
9 with disabilities and the thousands of people experiencing homelessness; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Austin’s Action Plan to End Homelessness (“Action Plan”) states that
11 outreach, shelter and transitional housing are the critical front line of our community’s
12 efforts to ending homelessness, helping people meet basic survival needs while helping
13 connect them to housing resources and other services; and

14 **WHEREAS**, according to the 2018 Point-in-Time Count the number of persons
15 experiencing homelessness rose 5% from 2017 to 2018, while the number of persons
16 experiencing unsheltered homelessness rose 21.6% from 2017 to 2018; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Action Plan recognizes that there are not enough emergency
18 shelter beds available to people who need them, resulting in people being turned away or
19 not even attempting to ask for a bed in shelters; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 20170810-033 directed the City Manager to assess
21 City-owned buildings and identify at least five possibilities for one or more temporary,
22 short-term emergency shelters and to provide the Council with cost estimates for operation
23 and maintenance; and

24 **WHEREAS**, an increasing number of Austin residents living unsheltered,
25 experiencing exposure, malnutrition, and unhygienic conditions increases the likelihood
26 of victimization, poor physical and mental health, and public health consequences; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the National Alliance to End Homelessness views shelter as a key
28 component to our homeless response system; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the Action Plan proposes more shelters and day services, providing
30 safe places for people to be during the day as well as overnight allowing consistent contact
31 with service providers and the ability to more quickly move to stable housing; and

32 **WHEREAS**, the Action Plan recognizes that clients receiving shelter services must
33 have access to affordable, low-barrier housing in order to end their homelessness; **NOW**,

34 **THEREFORE**,

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

36 The City Council directs the City Manager to take steps necessary to inform and
37 prepare for the implementation of the Report described below. Such steps shall include
38 preparing to purchase or lease and make ready a fabric membrane structure or other
39 building structure, including an existing structure, which is appropriate for, and dedicated

40 to piloting immediate shelter and support services for those experiencing homelessness
41 with the intent of providing a pathway to permanent housing. The structure will be placed
42 or located on property owned by the City or property owned by an entity partnering with
43 the City, but not directly adjacent to existing residential neighborhoods. An exception to
44 this restriction would be allowed if the adjacent neighborhood approved of the use.

45 The City Council further directs the City Manager to make the structure and services
46 available for use on or before September 30, 2019, after completion of the Report and only
47 after any necessary spending authorization by Council on May 23, 2019.

48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

49 The City Council directs the City Manager to provide it a Report on or before May
50 2, 2019 about the best options for piloting immediate shelter and support services for those
51 experiencing homelessness with the intent of providing a pathway to permanent housing.
52 The Report shall identify the partners and City departments which will collaborate to
53 implement the delivery of shelter and support services; the scope, type, and parameters of
54 services; costs associated with such shelter and support services; and opportunities for
55 private and philanthropic partners to contribute to such costs (hereinafter referred to as
56 "Report"). The Report will also identify the target population, the referral process, the
57 support services, enrollment in housing programs, a process and metrics for measuring
58 success, and the costs associated with this shelter to housing concept.

59 The City Council further directs the City Manager to develop the Report on the pilot
60 in collaboration with agencies and City departments currently serving individuals
61 experiencing homelessness and funding homelessness programs in Austin. This
62 collaboration will include discussions with the National Alliance to End Homelessness
63 about best practices for shelter operations and standards and shelter as a key component
64 to our homeless response system. These discussions will address how people are
65 identified to stay in the shelter and how they are to be connected to support services and
66 housing programs.

67 Additionally, the City Council directs the City Manager to place any contracts or
68 spending documents or other options for spending that require City Council approval and
69 are necessary for implementation on the May 23, 2019, City Council Meeting Agenda.

70 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

71 The City Council directs the City Manager to complete the steps described in this
72 resolution according to the following timeline:

- 73 • submit the Report to City Council on or before May 2, 2019;
- 74 • place any contracts or spending documents or other options for spending which are
75 necessary for implementation and require Council approval on the May 23, 2019
76 Council Agenda;
- 77 • make the structure and services available for use on or before September 30, 2019;
- 78 and

79 • expedite the contracting for and procurement of services to meet the September 30
80 deadline.

81

82

83 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2019

ATTEST: _____

84

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

85