

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**WHEREAS**, at 4613 Tannehill Lane the Salvation Army constructed the Rathgeber family shelter in response to growing shelter waitlists for families with children;

**WHEREAS**, the Rathgeber Center, a shelter facility designed to serve a total  
 ity of 212 persons at any time, will soon be ready for occupancy; and

**WHEREAS,** the Rathgeber Center will provide emergency shelter, case management, housing navigation, employment services, therapy, childcare, clothing, basic life skills classes; and

**WHEREAS**, the facility will contain private bathrooms, community rooms, a full-kitchen, computer learning lab, laundry facilities, comprehensive on-site resources, outdoor play areas for children; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rathgeber Center will provide Housing First rapid rehousing services, as well as extended stay shelter for individuals with longer-term barriers who need additional time and space for successful permanent housing attainment; and

**WHEREAS**, while at 100% capacity the Rathgeber Center could serve 206 solicited families annually, the Salvation Army does not have the full funding it would need to operate the shelter at full capacity and intends out of necessity to implement a phased approach; and

21       **WHEREAS**, while private fundraising efforts are well underway, there is an  
22 anticipated funding gap for both the rapid rehousing and extended stay shelter programs to  
23 be 100% operational; and

24       **WHEREAS**, in 2017, the Point in Time Count revealed that there were 181  
25 households comprised of families with children (587 persons) who were experiencing  
26 homelessness in Austin, and likely this number has increased in the intervening years; and

27       **WHEREAS**, the Downtown emergency shelters currently operate at or above  
28 capacity; and

29       **WHEREAS**, the Action Plan for Ending Homelessness, Resolutions No. 20161013-  
30 008 and 20170810-033, recommendations from the National Alliance to End  
31 Homelessness regarding the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH) redesign,  
32 and other planning and strategy documents have all identified the need for additional  
33 emergency shelter; and

34       **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 20190131-078 directed the City Manager to, among  
35 other things, provide a report about best options for piloting immediate shelter and support  
36 services for those experiencing homelessness with the intent of providing a pathway to  
37 permanent housing; and

38       **WHEREAS**, when the Rathgeber Center is fully operational, it will provide a  
39 dramatic increase in shelter space for families with children; and

40       **WHEREAS**, the ARCH redesign of services will provide all clients who sleep at  
41 the ARCH with case management services to ensure their timely exit into permanent  
42 housing, however, this will reduce the amount of available case management services at  
43 the ARCH; and

44       **WHEREAS**, with additional funding the Salvation Army's Downtown shelter  
45 would be able to expand case management, resulting in more efficient and effective  
46 housing-focused outcomes for clients; and

47       **WHEREAS**, the Council has identified homelessness as a top strategic priority; and

48       **WHEREAS**, in response to Council Resolutions No. 20170831-103 and 20180614-  
49 066, the City Manager has explored some potential options for increasing funding to  
50 address homelessness; and

51       **WHEREAS**, as the City continues to make investments to address homelessness,  
52 we must also ensure that our current shelter facilities are fully funded and operational and  
53 that they include the services to help families and individuals transition into permanent  
54 housing; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

56       The City Council directs the City Manager to identify potential sources of funding  
57 that would assist the Salvation Army Rathgeber Center in becoming fully operational.

58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

