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RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, people in a housing crisis need a safe and habitable place to go that is immediately available and accommodates their needs; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 **WHEREAS**, the National Alliance recognizes the current availability of immediate
32 family shelter resources and the overwhelming need for individual shelter resources; and

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

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

38 **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 20190131-078 directed the City Manager to provide a
39 report on the best options for piloting immediate shelter and support services for those
40 experiencing homelessness with the intent of providing a pathway to permanent housing;

41 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

43 The City Council directs the City Manager to begin negotiations to purchase a
44 property identified in the Report prepared in response to Resolution No. 2019013-078 and
45 present City Council with a property to purchase no later than June 20, 2019.

46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

47 The City Council directs the City Manager to include in the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget
48 funds necessary for piloting immediate housing-focused shelter and support services for
49 those experiencing homelessness with the intent of providing a pathway to permanent
50 housing.

51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

52 The City Council directs the City Manager to work with staff to develop a scope of
53 services for shelter operations and on-site support services for a small shelter of 50-100 beds
54 that utilize best practices identified by the National Alliance to End Homelessness including
55 but not limited to:

- 56 • Focusing on housing individuals as quickly as possible,
- 57 • Treating each person's episode of homelessness as an urgent crisis that needs a
- 58 quick permanent housing resolution,

- Providing innovative personal storage solutions,
- The option for allowing pets,
- Developing a housing exit strategy for the shelter, and
- Decreasing long-stays and returns to the shelter.

ADOPTED: _____, 2019

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
Secretary