## **RESOLUTION NO.**

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WHEREAS, on April 15, 2019, the Austin environmental and parks community
lost an important catalyst and steward of the Austin Nature Preserve System in the passing
of Louis René Barrera, an Austin resident and longtime member of the Austin Parks and
Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS. Louis René Barrera started his career with the Austin Parks and 7 8 Recreation Department in January 1996 as a temporary employee and began managing the 9 Austin Nature Preserve System as a fulltime permanent employee in August of 1998; and WHEREAS, the Austin nature preserves are sanctuaries for native plants, animals 10 11 and their habitats, and for unique natural features. Nature preserves are managed primarily 12 for the protection of these species and features. They also provide educational, scientific, 13 and aesthetic benefits for the people of Austin; and WHEREAS, René worked for more than 20 years working on and caring for the 14 2,200 acres of the 15 parcel Austin Nature Preserve System; and 15 WHEREAS, his work on the Austin Nature Preserve System earned the Keep 16 America Beautiful Award and the Keep Austin Beautiful Award; and 17

WHEREAS, René was named a Five Who Care Community Service Award finalist
by KVUE and AMD in 2000; and

WHEREAS, he was recognized for his work on the Blunn Creek Nature Preserve by the Student Service Council of St. Edward's University for his lasting contribution to the attainment of social justice for all in April 2008; and

WHEREAS, he received the Austin Land Steward award by Save Barton Creek
Association Awards in November 2017; and

WHEREAS, René was recognized by Mayor Adler for his trailblazing work
managing the Austin Nature Preserve System in March 2019; and

WHEREAS, he gave his career to Austin's nature preserves while also volunteering as a preserve guardian, monitoring Blunn Creek Nature Preserve for many years; and

WHEREAS, René's work also included the eradication of millions of invasive species over his 20 plus years serving the nature preserves as noted in a December 2005 Austin Chronicle article stating, "the city of Austin is home to roughly 1 gazillion waxleaf ligustrum plants, and only one René Barrera."; and

34 WHEREAS, René helped to protect and restore native habitat while educating 35 many of his fellow citizens about their community and the natural world; and

WHEREAS, with Rene's passing the City of Austin has lost a steward, educator, and mentor who was quick to explain the importance of protecting the natural world in an ever-changing urban environment, **NOW**, **THEREFORE**,

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40 BE IT RESOLVED TH	AT THE CITY C	OUNCIL OF TH	IE CITY OF AUSTIN:
41 City Council directs the City Manager to initiate proceedings under City Code			
42 Section 14-1-39 for the re	enaming of the Indi	angrass Wildlife	Sanctuary to the Louis René
43 Barrera Indiangrass Wild	life Sanctuary.		
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46 47 <b>ADOPTED:</b>	, 2019	ATTEST:	
47 <b>ADOT TED.</b> 48 49	, 2019	ATTEST	Jannette S. Goodall City Clerk
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