

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to ensure that Downtown Austin continues to appeal to residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Downtown Design Guidelines recommended creating drinking fountains throughout the urban landscape; and

WHEREAS, City Code requires that drinking fountains be included as part of the design of certain public facilities, including municipal pools; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Age Friendly Action Plan recommends increasing the number of public spaces equipped with drinking fountains as one strategy for increasing access to open spaces and public buildings; and

WHEREAS, Council has received testimony in recent years urging the City of Austin to install drinking fountains in Downtown; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Austin experienced 51 days with temperatures 100 degrees or higher, and 42 such days in 2017; and

WHEREAS, climate change is causing temperatures to rise, and 2018 was Austin’s third-hottest summer of record; and

WHEREAS, access to free fresh water, particularly during the warm summer months, is vital to life and health; and

WHEREAS, drinking fountains in our growing Downtown would serve a variety of diverse users, including visitors, Downtown employees and patrons, individuals experiencing homelessness, and individuals using bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure; and

24 **WHEREAS**, many cities of all sizes have recognized the importance of free
25 drinking fountains and have invested in this infrastructure; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

27 The City Manager is directed to consult with the relevant City departments,
28 the Downtown Austin Alliance, and other interested stakeholders to identify at
29 least 10 locations within the boundaries of I-35, 15th Street, Lady Bird Lake, and
30 Lamar Boulevard, that would be suitable to install free, ADA compliant, 24-hour
31 drinking fountains. At least two of these proposed locations should be in the area
32 bounded by Red River Street, E. 8th Street, Trinity Street, and E. 7th Street and one
33 in the area near E. 4th Street, in the general vicinity of the Downtown Metro Rail
34 Station and the Convention Center.

35 The City Manager is directed to bring forth both the proposed locations and
36 a budget estimate for the installation, operations, and maintenance of drinking
37 fountains no later than September 1, 2019, so Council may consider a budget
38 allocation during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 budget adoption process. The
39 City Manager is directed to analyze whether these costs could be borne by the
40 Austin Water Utility.

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

42 Should a FY 19-20 budget allocation be successful, the City Manager is
43 directed to expedite the procurement process so drinking fountains can be installed
44 and functional as quickly as possible.

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46 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2019

ATTEST: _____

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Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk