

21 range of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing and other service resources
22 to address the various needs of persons experiencing homelessness, and a local lead
23 agency is designated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
24 (HUD) to plan, coordinate, and administer operations, as well as apply for federal
25 CoC funding; and

26 **WHEREAS**, Ending Community Homelessness Organization (ECHO) is the
27 designated lead agency for the Austin and Travis County CoC, and the organization
28 which conducts an annual Point in Time Count of the homeless in the area; and

29 **WHEREAS**, governments within the Central Texas region, centered on
30 Austin, frequently work together on large regional issues or to coordinate and
31 allocate federal funding, including governing bodies across a six-county area in the
32 Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) and across a ten-county
33 area in the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG), among others; and

34 **WHEREAS**, Congressional House Bill 1856, entitled Ending Homelessness
35 Act of 2019, was filed and approved by the House Financial Services Committee,
36 and would provide \$13.27 billion additional over five years to fight homelessness
37 and housing shortages through vouchers, the construction of new units, and
38 outreach; and

39 **WHEREAS**, federal funding is critical to the city's effort to address and end
40 homelessness, and the funding and availability of federally funded Veterans Affairs

41 Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers is what made it possible for the city to
42 achieve Functional Zero for Veteran Homelessness in August 2016; and

43 **WHEREAS**, the Council adopted Resolution No. 20140417-048 and
44 Ordinance 20141211-050 which barred housing discrimination based on source of
45 income, including vouchers, and adopted Resolution No. 20141002-044 directing
46 the City Manager to develop an incentive-based program for housing owners that
47 accept vouchers; and

48 **WHEREAS**, in 2015, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 267, which
49 pre-empts local ordinances that ban discrimination based on sources of income for
50 all voucher holders other than veterans; and

51 **WHEREAS**, the primary city facility for servicing the homeless is the Austin
52 Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH), which is currently in the process of
53 changing its operations to focus on case-management and transitioning into housing
54 and away from being a day resource center for drop-in clients, based on
55 recommendations from the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) in a
56 June 2018 report and adopted by City Staff in a December 18, 2018 memo; and

57 **WHEREAS**, the public areas in the immediate vicinity of the ARCH are in
58 critical need of improved maintenance, sanitation, and safety for pedestrians and
59 ARCH clients, and the NAEH report recommended working to reduce the

60 concentration of activities that currently exist outside the ARCH and to make the
61 shelter more welcoming to individuals experiencing homelessness; and

62 **WHEREAS**, design and operation are important for all shelters and
63 supportive housing, and the increasing refinement of national best practices should
64 be adapted to localized needs and many typologies a shelter or supportive housing
65 may take, including for adapting existing apartments buildings, hotels, and motels;
66 and

67 **WHEREAS**, the Council adopted Resolution No. 20180614-066, temporally
68 extending the Waller Creek Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) and directing
69 staff to analyze options for using TIRZ funding for projects that both address the
70 causes and symptoms of homelessness and housing insecurity and that are of benefit
71 to the TIRZ. The Resolution also asked the City Manager to review the possibility
72 of directing supplemental funding from other Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones
73 towards addressing homelessness and other housing initiatives; and

74 **WHEREAS**, the City Manager responded to Resolution No. 20180614-066
75 with a memo on December 6, 2018 that recommended utilizing certificates of
76 obligations, reimbursed with TIRZ revenue, in three funding rounds totaling \$30
77 million and to be used for capital expenditures including transitional and permanent
78 supportive housing, improvements to the ARCH, and other facilities. The City
79 Manager also recommended reviewing funding for homelessness from other TIRZs

80 only after the Waller Creek TIRZ amendment is executed and details of this funding
81 option are more certain; and

82 **WHEREAS**, on November 6, 2018, City of Austin voters approved a bond
83 proposition of \$250 million for affordable housing, including \$100 million for land
84 acquisition and \$94 million for rental housing development assistance; and

85 **WHEREAS**, in addition to the capital needs to acquire or develop housing
86 for the homeless, operating funds are necessary to provide the supportive services
87 that make these facilities successful in helping individuals experiencing homeless
88 transition to housing and self-sufficiency; and

89 **WHEREAS**, the Council passed Resolution No. 20190523-029 directing the
90 City Manager to prepare for the establishment of a Tourism Public Improvement
91 District (TPID) associated with an expansion of the convention center and allowing
92 for up to a two percent assessment on a taxable hotel room night to generate revenue
93 that would make available operating funding available, directly or indirectly, to help
94 address homelessness in Austin; and

95 **WHEREAS**, cities such as Philadelphia, Minneapolis, and Orlando have
96 implemented successful encampment strategies that include interdisciplinary
97 collaboration in which outreach teams connect individuals in identified
98 encampments to low-barrier housing and services; and

99 **WHEREAS**, a significant amount of constructive community feedback has
100 been received by the Council since the adopting of Resolution No. 20190620-184,
101 and there are additional ideas that the Council would like City Staff to review or
102 implement; **NOW THEREFORE**,

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

104 The City Manager is directed to work with and have the Transportation
105 Department, or other appropriate departments, identify high pedestrian and vehicular
106 trafficked streets, sidewalks, or other areas that present the greatest public safety
107 risks and public health hazards for people camping, sitting, lying, riding bicycles or
108 scooters, or others.

109 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

110 The City Manager is directed to work with and have the Watershed
111 Department, or other appropriate departments, identify flash or other flood prone
112 areas, flood plains, flood ways, or other areas that present the greatest public safety
113 risks and potential public health hazards for people camping, sitting, or lying.

114 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

115 The City Manager is directed to work with and have the Public Health
116 Department, or other appropriate departments, identify camping practices,
117 structures, possessions, or items that present the greatest public safety risks and
118 potential public health hazards for people camping, sitting, lying, or others.

119 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

120 The City Manager is directed to work with and have the Fire Department, or
121 other appropriate departments, identify areas and practices within the wildland urban
122 interface areas that present the greatest public safety risks and potential public health
123 hazards for people camping, sitting, lying, area residents, or others.

124 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

125 The City Manager is directed to compile a map and guide, as well as signage,
126 where appropriate, that would assist the public in understanding the applicable areas
127 and conditions where City Code Sections 9-4-11 (*Camping in Public Area*
128 *Prohibited*) and 9-4-14 (*Obstruction in the Downtown Community Court Area*
129 *Prohibited*) and other relevant city, state, and federal regulations are enforced. The
130 City Manager shall also review and recommend a robust public awareness effort so
131 that individuals affected by these changes can be alerted.

132 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**

133 The City Manager is directed to initiate a homeless encampment response
134 strategy that directly outreaches to individuals experiencing homeless and prioritizes
135 the most critical existing campments throughout the city. In order to successfully
136 fulfill this homeless encampment response strategy, the City Manager should utilize
137 funding for homelessness in the adopted budget or recommend sources of funding

138 for adequately staffing or otherwise providing for the non-criminal options that
139 connect individuals experiencing homeless to the services they need.

140 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

141 The City Manager is directed to work with, without limitation, ECHO, the
142 Texas Homeless Network, and Austin-area governments to develop a regional
143 Continuum of Care approach, including for service coordination, data tracking,
144 applications for funding, and other related activities.

145 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

146 The City Manager is directed to add to the state and federal legislative agenda,
147 the Council's support for the Ending Homelessness Act of 2019 (HR 1856), as well
148 as support for other legislation that seeks to improve both federal and state funding
149 for homelessness in the Austin area.

150 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

151 The City Manager is directed to work with, without limitation, the Austin
152 Community Foundation on the creation and operation of a risk fund that could
153 support voucher holders experiencing homelessness, and to mitigate perceived risks
154 of leasing and increasing units for housing for people experiencing homelessness.

155 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

156 The City Manager is directed to work with local area stakeholders as well as
157 national experts, such as the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Urban Land

158 Institute, American Institute of Architects, and others to identify design and
159 operation criteria for future shelters and supportive housing that could integrate well
160 into each Council district.

161 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

162 The City Manager is directed to bring amendments to the Waller Creek TIRZ
163 to support efforts to deal with the challenge of homelessness for Council
164 consideration as recommended in the December 6, 2018 staff memo, and to review
165 and recommend similar amendments for other existing and future city TIRZs.

166 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

167 The City Manager is directed to search and make recommendations for the
168 acquisition of available properties that may be used or adapted for shelter or
169 supportive housing, including, but not limited to, hotels and motels, and to bring
170 recommended properties to the City Council for consideration.

171 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

172 The City Manager is directed to work with stakeholders including but not
173 limited to, the Austin Hotel and Lodging Association, the Downtown Austin
174 Alliance, Visit Austin, ECHO, and other homelessness service providers to prepare
175 for the establishment of a TPID allowing for up to a two percent assessment on a
176 taxable hotel room night to generate revenue that would make available funding,
177 directly or indirectly, to help address homelessness in Austin.

178 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

179 The City Manager is directed to analyze opportunities and recommend
180 additional initiatives for promoting the general public welfare and engaging and
181 assisting individuals experiencing homelessness and to return to Council with
182 actionable responses. The analysis should include, but not be limited to:

- 183 • Public donation receptacles on the street to provide the public with
184 additional ways to contribute to funding Austin’s homelessness response;
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- 186 • Portable toilet options and/or “wag bags,” as well as additional trash
187 receptacles that may be provided to homeless camps to improve sanitary
188 conditions;
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- 190 • Mobile shower and laundry opportunities such as a mobile vehicle that can go
191 directly to existing camps;
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- 193 • City-provided replacement equipment for sleeping or camping for
194 individuals experiencing homelessness where unsafe conditions or
195 oversized camping structures currently exist; and
196
- 197 • Options and strategies for addressing racial disparities in Austin’s
198 homeless response system, including those that were detailed in the ECHO
199 Action Plan to End Homelessness.
200
- 201 • A City website detailing volunteer and donation opportunities for the public
202 to engage with community efforts to address homelessness.
203
204
205

206 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2019 **ATTEST:** _____
207 Jannette S. Goodall
208 City Clerk