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3 **ORDINANCE NO.**

4 **AN ORDINANCE TEMPORARILY WAIVING SECTION 2-1-6(E) OF CITY CODE**
5 **REGARDING MEETINGS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS; AND DECLARING AN**
6 **EMERGENCY.**

7 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**
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9 **PART 1.** On March 6, 2020, Mayor Steve Adler issued a Declaration of Local Disaster
10 to allow the City of Austin to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to
11 COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Austin residents, and on March 12, 2020,
12 City Council passed Resolution 20200312-074 ratifying the Declaration of Local Disaster
13 and consenting to its continuation indefinitely or until such time as it is terminated by
14 order of the Council.
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16 **PART 2.** On March 16, 2020, Governor Abbott granted the Office of the Attorney
17 General's request for suspension of certain open-meeting statutes. This temporary
18 suspension allows for telephonic or videoconference meetings of governmental bodies
19 that are accessible to the public in an effort to reduce in-person meetings that assemble
20 large groups of people.
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22 **PART 3.** City Code Section 2-1-6(E) provides that all members of a board or a
23 commission necessary to provide a quorum must be physically present at a meeting to
24 conduct business.
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26 **PART 4.** In keeping with the Mayor's Declaration of Local Disaster and the Governor's
27 suspension of certain open-meeting statutes, and in order to reduce the possibility of
28 exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Austin residents and board
29 and commission members, the Council waives the requirements of City Code Section 2-
30 1-6(E) to allow boards and commission members to meet via telephonic or
31 videoconference until such time Council terminates the Declaration of Local Disaster.
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33 **PART 5.** The Council finds that the need to allow meetings of boards and commissions
34 to proceed safely constitutes an emergency. Because of this emergency, this ordinance
35 takes effect immediately on its passage for the immediate preservation of the public peace,
36 health, and safety.

37 **PASSED AND APPROVED**

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_____, 2020 § _____
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APPROVED: _____ **ATTEST:** _____

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Anne L. Morgan
City Attorney

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Steve Adler
Mayor

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

DRAFT