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WHEREAS, since the beginning of the crisis, the City Council of the City of Austin has responded to this through several actions , including Ordinance No. 20200326- 090 and Resolution Nos. 20200326-091, 20200326-092, 20200409-079, 20200409-081, 20200409-086, and 20200423-040 each of which respond to needs of Austin residents amid the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, and open a path toward relief in economic strain for individuals and businesses during this crisis; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the City has been able to launch several programs to date,
26 however, currently launched programs have already received more requests for
27 assistance than there are available funds; and

28 **WHEREAS**, on March 27, 2020, the CARES Act, was signed into law, which
29 authorized \$2 trillion in federal economic relief through a stimulus infusion into
30 housing and public health programs, as well as direct financial assistance and
31 additional unemployment benefits to individuals, allocating \$170M to the City of
32 Austin with an additional tens of millions to our partner counties; and

33 **WHEREAS**, on April 22, 2020, federal guidelines for expending the CARES
34 Act funding were released, helping to lay out the rules for which the City's programs
35 may be reimbursable, and opening up the possibility for additional assistance
36 opportunities for the City's non-profit sector; and

37 **WHEREAS**, on April 8, 2020, Mission Capital published a survey of a large
38 number of local non-profit organizations in the Austin-area that identified a great need
39 for flexible resources for non-profit organizations to be able to adapt and continue
40 services to the community, as well as to sustain operations through the current
41 emergency situation and remain solvent when the crisis is over; and

42 **WHEREAS**, the City's Economic Injury Bridge Loan Program has already
43 received more requests for assistance than funding currently allocated; and

44 **WHEREAS**, City staff has limited resources to administer assistance programs,
45 however, there are many existing non-profit organizations with the experience and
46 core competencies to provide assistance to others; and

47 **WHEREAS**, our community's needs are immediate and pressing, and any
48 further delay may cause additional harm;

49 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

51 The City Council of the City of Austin directs the City Manager to develop a
52 rapid program for allocating an initial portion of the CARES funding in response to
53 the COVID-19 crisis. This program should work with external non-profit
54 organizations to administer support to help sustain small and local businesses and
55 non-profit entities facing hardship.

56 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

57 Non-profit organizations applying to be administrators as part of this program
58 (administering organization) can provide assistance, including but not limited to:

- 59 • Economic injury loans and technical assistance for local and small businesses:
 - 60 ○ Expanding upon needs and eligibility criteria identified as part of the
 - 61 existing Economic Injury Bridge Loan Program; and
 - 62 ○ Leveraging external public and private dollars;
- 63 • Sustainability, operational, technical, or crisis support for non-profit entities
64 (recipient organizations):
 - 65 ○ Recipient organizations must meet the following criteria:
 - 66 ▪ Organizations classified as a ‘public charity’ with tax-exempt
 - 67 status under Section 501(c)(3) and 509(a) of the Internal Revenue
 - 68 Service Code,
 - 69 ▪ Non-profits in existence for 3 or more years,
 - 70 ▪ Locally based with operations primarily within the City of Austin,
 - 71 Texas,
 - 72 ○ Non-profit activities ineligible for the program include:
 - 73 ▪ Endowments or memorials,

- 74 ▪ Political lobbying or legislative activities,
- 75 ▪ Fraternal, sectarian and religious organizations where the funding
- 76 is intended to principally benefit members/adherents and to fund
- 77 inherently religious activities,
- 78 ▪ Private foundations,
- 79 ▪ Litigation/legal expenses in actions by or against the organization,
- 80 ▪ General capital campaigns, or
- 81 ▪ Support benefiting primarily for-profit members.

82 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

83 The City Manager is directed to ensure the program has a low barrier to entry
84 for businesses and non-profits receiving assistance via administering organizations.
85 Administering organizations should also be able to cover some of their administrative
86 costs. Administering organizations should be required to report, in real-time, the
87 spending and disbursement of these funds. City staff will develop a measurement of
88 return on investment, including but not limited to equity, quantity of people or entities
89 helped, and outside or private funds leveraged.

90 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

91
92 The City Council directs the City Manager to partner with the Community
93 Advancement Network (CAN), the Capital Area Council of Governments
94 (CAPCOG), and other local governments receiving CARES Act funding to create and
95 implement a regional Economic Response Dashboard. This dashboard should track
96 response dollars allocated by federal, state, and local government as well as private
97 fundraising dollars from foundations, non-profits, businesses, or other entities. The
98 report should be updated close to real-time as data is available and including but not
99 limited to:

- Total dollars allocated to relief broken down by source, including links to the details of each source of funds,
- Dollars distributed to non-profit organizations and private businesses at a detailed level, and
- Aggregate demographic and geographic information on disbursements to individuals made directly or through non-profits organizations.

ADOPTED: _____, 2020

ATTEST: _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk