

**RESOLUTION NO.**

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3       **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has impacted Austin’s  
4 economy in an unprecedented manner, leading to the closure of businesses and economic  
5 uncertainty; and

6       **WHEREAS**, Austin residents have lost jobs and income on an unprecedented  
7 scale as a result of the pandemic; and

8       **WHEREAS**, Austin has received \$170 million in federal aid as a result of the  
9 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and associated stimulus  
10 packages; and

11       **WHEREAS**, such funds must be used in direct response to the impact of the  
12 pandemic and for costs that were not previously budgeted by the City and that were  
13 incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30,  
14 2020; and

15       **WHEREAS**, the federal Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was a work relief  
16 program created in 1933, employing Americans on conservation projects to alleviate  
17 economic distress and support the protection and development of natural resources; and

18       **WHEREAS**, the Texas Conservation Corps and American Youthworks are  
19 descendants of the original federal program, still in operation today; and

20           **WHEREAS**, in May of 2019, City Council unanimously supported the basic  
21 tenets of the Green New Deal, which includes the promotion and development of “green  
22 collar” jobs; and

23           **WHEREAS**, unemployed Austinites can be hired to complete conservation  
24 projects, providing them immediate economic relief, work experience, and job skill  
25 training; and

26           **WHEREAS**, such work can largely be done without extensive preparation, while  
27 observing social distancing and wearing personal protective equipment; and

28           **WHEREAS**, within the City of Austin there are a number of conservation-  
29 related projects and identified needs on private and public land that have not yet been  
30 sufficiently staffed or funded; and

31           **WHEREAS**, contract authorities exist to enable quick implementation of a  
32 program to hire Austinites to work on such projects, and other funding sources exist to  
33 build and expand such a program; and

34           **WHEREAS**, the creation of an Austin Civilian Conservation Corps work relief  
35 program would provide jobs to Austinites who have been economically impacted by  
36 compliance with COVID-related public health measures, inspire hope, build  
37 community, and support the overall goals of the City by completing necessary and  
38 beneficial projects; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

40 The City Manager is directed to create an Austin Civilian Conservation Corps, to  
41 employ Austinites who have been economically impacted by compliance with COVID-  
42 related public health measures to complete conservation and other beneficial projects.

43 Program Structure

44 The City Manager is directed to identify and outline the basic components of the  
45 Austin Civilian Conservation Corps and provide to Council a recommendation on  
46 program structure by June 8, 2020.

47 Eligibility

48 The Austin Civilian Conservation Corps should employ Austinites who have lost  
49 jobs and/or faced a significant economic impact as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

50 Workforce Development

51 The Austin Civilian Conservation Corps should pay a living wage to all  
52 participants, excepting those who are currently participating in existing City contracts  
53 or a federally-funded workforce development program. To ensure participants in the  
54 program are better positioned to secure employment on the completion of their service,  
55 the Austin Civilian Conservation Corps should incorporate trainings, certifications, and  
56 professional development opportunities wherever possible.

57 Project Selection

58 Projects shall take place on private or public space according to their funding  
59 source and following all associated guidelines. The City Manager is directed to  
60 prioritize projects that:

- 61 • Do not require hiring additional City employees;
- 62 • can be done safely while observing social distancing;
- 63 • can be done without the need for extensive preparation of corps participants  
64 but done in accordance with City-adopted best practices;
- 65 • will have a lasting positive impact; and
- 66 • will inspire hope and build community.

67 Projects can, but are not required to, leverage other funding such as a fee for  
68 service so more Austinites can be employed by the Austin Civilian Conservation Corps.

69 Possible project candidates include, but are not limited to:

- 70 • Fuels mitigation and brush pickup
- 71 • Planting and watering trees and greenery
- 72 • Trails creation and maintenance
- 73 • Beautification and art
- 74 • Designing and laying out irrigation systems in support of planting efforts
- 75 • Watershed protection and erosion mitigation

- 76           • Invasive species management and removal, including but not limited to  
77           *ligustrum*, zebra mussels and blue-green algae
- 78           • Restoration of native habitats

79           Project candidates for city-funded (non-CARES) projects include, but are not  
80 limited to:

- 81           • Any of the above project types on public land
- 82           • Park maintenance
- 83           • Urban orchard planning and planting on public lands, such as in parks or at  
84           Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) developments

85   Funding

86           The City Manager is directed to identify available funding for the creation and  
87 implementation of the Austin Conservation Corps program, to include:

- 88           • identifying aspects of the Austin Civilian Conservation Corps eligible for  
89           federal stimulus funding under current guidelines, , and reevaluating if more  
90           funding and flexibility becomes available;
- 91           • fully activating and utilizing existing contract authorities to quickly staff the  
92           Austin Civilian Conservation Corp for projects on public land and to begin  
93           project work without delay;

- 94           • creating new emergency contracts using funding allocated by City Council in  
95           the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget, including fuels mitigation contracts on  
96           public lands, to be used for projects as part of the Austin Conservation Corps.

97           The City Manager is authorized to use previously unbudgeted funds from the  
98 CARES Act to fund the Austin Civilian Conservation Corps to serve as a workforce  
99 development program for projects on private property.

100           For City-owned or other public lands, the City Manager is authorized to negotiate  
101 and execute new emergency contracts, to be executed pursuant to City's emergency  
102 contracting procedures, or negotiate and execute amendments to existing workforce  
103 development contracts in order to put Austinites to work quickly through the Austin  
104 Civilian Conservation Corps. The City Manager is further authorized to negotiate and  
105 execute contracts through standard procurement practices to provide ACCC  
106 opportunities for more Austinites as funding and demand allow.

107           The City Manager is directed to return to City Council at the next Council  
108 meeting, or the soonest possible Council meeting, with a recommendation for an initial  
109 appropriation funding amount for the Austin Civilian Conservation Corps.

110           The City Manager is directed to identify and pursue other funding sources for the  
111 Austin Civilian Conservation Corps, including grants and public-private partnerships,  
112 to enhance the Corps and to potentially continue the Corps beyond the initial funding  
113 period.

114 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

115 Intergovernmental Coordination and Advocacy

116 The City Manager is directed to coordinate with the county and other regional  
117 partners to maximize the benefits and impact of the Austin Civilian Conservation Corps.

118 The City Manager is further directed to advocate on the state and federal level for  
119 additional resources for programs like the Austin Civilian Conservation Corps, and to  
120 support the creation and resurgence of similar programs on a national scale.

121 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

122 The City Manager is directed to update the City's telecommuting policies and  
123 goals and to identify other actions that ensure the City incorporates lessons learned  
124 during the pandemic that might help achieve our climate goals as we recover.

125 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

126 The City Manager will provide Council an update on the implementation of this  
127 resolution as soon as possible, but no later than June 8, 2020. The City Manager shall  
128 return to Council regularly with recommendations for improving or expanding the  
129 Austin Civilian Conservation Corps.

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134 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk

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