

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

2 **WHEREAS**, The Austin City Council has articulated a new strategic
3 direction for policing and public safety in countless resolutions, ordinances, budget
4 directions and guidance; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 20191205-066 directed the City Manager to
6 investigate and improve the very inner workings of the Austin Police Department,
7 including training protocols, practices, and officer behaviors; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin supports policies that reduce the
9 unnecessary use of force by police, enhance implicit-bias and de-escalation
10 training, expand civilian oversight of the Austin Police Department, and improve
11 relations between police and those they serve; and

12 **WHEREAS**, recent police action showed that sworn officers of the Austin
13 Police Department fired rubber bullets, bean bag rounds and tear gas into crowds
14 and sent unarmed protesters to the hospital; and

15 **WHEREAS**, more than two dozen community leaders presented a letter to
16 City Council demanding that the leadership at the top of our city's public safety
17 system be replaced with individuals who support and are willing to enact the
18 reforms passed by City Council; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the elected members of City Council have no confidence that
20 current Austin Police Department leadership intends to implement the policy and

21 culture changes required to end the disproportionate impact of police violence on
22 Black Americans, Latinx Americans, other nonwhite ethnic communities, and
23 returning and low-income residents; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the measures that current Austin Police Department leadership
25 have been willing to implement are inadequate, and resemble the same flawed
26 police training and command expectations that have existed in the past; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Austin's 911 system, managed by the Austin Police
28 Department, continues to send armed police to address problems that would be
29 better met with an alternative response; and

30 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 global pandemic requires us to carefully
31 reconsider how the City allocates FY2021 funds in order to address the needs of
32 desperately impacted residents; and

33 **WHEREAS**, the greater Austin area has lost 100,000 jobs during the
34 COVID-19 global pandemic and closures, and the Austin City Council actively
35 supports the need to edify budget spending priorities to address this regional
36 socioeconomic crisis; and

37 **WHEREAS**, the FY 2020-2021 budget is scheduled to be adopted in
38 August 2020; and

39 **WHEREAS**, the budget for the Austin Police Department is the City's
40 single largest General Fund expenditure, comprising approximately 40% of the

41 City of Austin's General Fund budget, leaving fewer resources available for other
42 public safety strategies that could better serve our community's needs and long-
43 term goals; and

44 **WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of
45 Justice Statistics, public expenditure on policing in the United States more than
46 quadrupled between 1982 and 2006, with no clear correlation between increased
47 spending and lower violent crime rates; and

48 **WHEREAS**, a Prison Policy Initiative 2017 report explicated that local
49 governments nationwide spend approximately \$13.6 billion on incarceration and
50 over-criminalization; and

51 **WHEREAS**, the budget is a reflection of the City of Austin's morals,
52 overarching vision, and strategic direction; and

53 **WHEREAS**, starting in FY16, the Council set a goal of increasing spending
54 on social service contracts to better align with community needs; and

55 **WHEREAS**, the City Charter grants Council final authority over budget
56 decisions; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

58 The City Manager is directed to bring forward a baseline budget that:

- 59
- Includes no additional sworn police staff positions;

- 60 • Eliminates the sworn positions that the Austin Police Department cannot
61 reasonably fill in FY2020-2021 and reallocates those unused funds to
62 alternative public safety and public health strategies such as, but not limited
63 to, training and standards for trauma-informed responses, substance abuse,
64 mental health responses, a comprehensive and community informed
65 community policing standard, COVID-19 relief, social services, housing
66 stability programs, family violence prevention and family violence
67 sheltering strategies funded through the Austin Public Health or
68 Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Departments, and
69 other preventative actions and alternatives;
- 70 • Explores options for reallocating positions and roles currently assigned to
71 the Austin Police Department that could be managed by other departments,
72 including but not limited to Code Enforcement, Austin Transportation
73 Department, Austin Public Health, Austin Fire Department, and Parks and
74 Recreation Department.
- 75 • Explores options for reallocating positions and roles currently assigned to
76 the Austin Police Department that could be managed by other outside
77 partner entities, including but not limited to CAPCOG, constable precincts,
78 or non-profit organizations.

- 79 • Does not include any additional funding for militarized equipment, including
80 but not limited to:
- 81 • Tear gas
 - 82 • Rubber bullets
 - 83 • Bean bag rounds
- 84 • Includes funding for a process to rewrite the Austin Police Department's
85 General Orders using national best practices and community input for the
86 implementation of new use of force guidelines that will reduce police
87 violence and clarify that all life is sacred;
- 88 • Funds an audit of all disciplinary records held by the Austin Police
89 Department, along with staffing needed to build data systems designed to
90 measure and track the implementation of new force guidelines and equity
91 outcomes related to use of force;
- 92 • Increases staffing for mental health first response, such as Community
93 Health Paramedics, to ensure the full implementation of an alternative
94 response to 911 calls related to mental health;
- 95 • Funds for the distribution of Naloxone and training in its use to ensure that
96 officers save lives when confronted with drug overdose situations;
- 97 • Includes funds for the expansion of programs to reduce or eliminate arrests
98 for low-level, non-violent offenses by substituting alternatives to arrest and

99 incarceration, including harm reduction strategies, when the underlying
100 issues can be better addressed with services and health care; and

- 101 • Establishes and funds an audit of the costs incurred by the City in
102 expenditures related to suspected and/or confirmed officer misconduct,
103 including but not limited to paid administrative leave, replacement
104 compensation and overtime, litigation and fees, settlements and payouts.

105 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

106 The City Manager is directed to report back to Council and relevant Council
107 Committees all changes made to the Austin Police Department General Orders.

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109 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2020 **ATTEST:** _____
110 Jannette S. Goodall
111 City Clerk
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