

RESOLUTION NO. 20200604-048

WHEREAS, there is a high demand that is not being met for shelters to serve those who have experienced family violence; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 local disaster, overall incidents of crime have decreased while family violence rates have increased; and

WHEREAS, SAFE Alliance reports that as of May 28, 2020, 70 adults and children were on their waitlist for admission and a number of households were assessed as being medium/high or high risk for lethality; and

WHEREAS, preventing homelessness and supporting housing stability is a public health priority during the COVID-19 local disaster; and

WHEREAS, providing shelter for those who have experienced family violence addresses homelessness as illustrated by the following statistics:

- 80% of U.S. moms experiencing homelessness had previously experienced family violence,
- 70% of people experiencing homelessness in Austin/Travis County report that past trauma or abuse caused their current homelessness, and
- 76% of youth experiencing homelessness have experienced foster care, juvenile justice, or both; and

WHEREAS, an existing hotel with the following features could be renovated to serve hundreds of families as protective shelter from family violence:

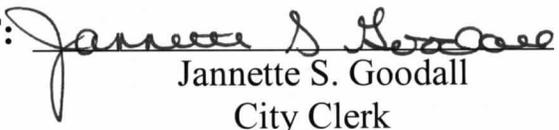
- Approximately 70-100 furnished hotel rooms, including studios, one-room, and two-room suites, with kitchenettes,
- an outdoor space, common areas, onsite residential laundry facility,

- located in a safe, walkable, residential area, close to a grocery store and neighborhood schools, and on a bus line, and
- property has a controlled entrance and front desk and is able to be fenced and secured; and

WHEREAS, the City, at its discretion, could choose for such a repurposed hotel to operate as protective shelter, or as a mix of protective shelter and bridge housing or permanent supportive housing, depending on need and available funds;
NOW, THEREFORE,

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

The City Manager is directed to analyze and consider, as part of the City Manager's Fiscal Year 20-21 budget development process, the funding necessary to acquire a hotel and fund a service provider to operate and manage the property as protective shelter from family violence. Such a project should be analyzed and considered above and beyond the City's existing hotel acquisition strategy.

ADOPTED: June 4, 2020 **ATTEST:** 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk