

19 accessible to all, especially for our vulnerable populations and historically
20 marginalized communities; and

21 **WHEREAS**, currently the City Code requires all charitable feeding
22 organizations to obtain a Food Enterprise operating permit if the entity is
23 providing any food that requires time and temperature control, and these entities
24 are held to the same standards as full-service, for-profit restaurants; and

25 **WHEREAS**, charitable feeding organizations are also required to comply
26 with the same permit and site compliance standards that are applied to full-service,
27 for-profit restaurants, and must also comply with the universal recycling and
28 organics diversion requirements in Chapter 15-6 of the City Code; and

29 **WHEREAS**, charitable feeding organizations are required to receive
30 certain advance approvals from City departments, including Austin Public Health,
31 Austin Water, the Development Services Department, and the Austin Fire
32 Department; and

33 **WHEREAS**, the majority of charitable feeding organizations are run by
34 volunteers, who have limited time and financial resources, as well as limited
35 knowledge of the permitting requirements or the skills needed to successfully
36 navigate and complete the permitting process; and

37 **WHEREAS**, many charitable feeding programs are offered in borrowed

38 spaces located inside of buildings where the charitable feeding organizations have
39 no legal authority to modify the physical space; and

40 **WHEREAS**, only 24% of identified food recipient organizations in Austin-
41 Travis County have a food establishment permit; and

42 **WHEREAS**, the Austin Travis County Food Policy Board established a
43 working group in 2019 to identify stakeholders and affected pantry operators,
44 work with relevant City departments to better understand the permitting process,
45 and explore solutions for charitable feeding organizations; and

46 **WHEREAS**, based on feedback from the working group, the Austin Travis
47 County Food Policy Board, in Recommendation Number: 20190909 – 5ii1
48 Charitable Feeding Organization Permit, recommended to the Austin City Council
49 that a task force be created to finalize the analysis of possible amendments to the
50 Food Enterprise permitting process for charitable feeding; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

52 The City Council directs the City Manager to convene a collaborative
53 working group comprised of the Austin Travis County Food Policy Board, area
54 partners, community stakeholders, and staff from the Austin Public Health
55 Department, Austin Water, the Development Services Department, and the Austin
56 Fire Department to develop recommendations regarding amendments to the Food

57 Enterprise permitting process for charitable feeding organizations, in order to
58 reduce the barriers of providing access to healthy foods for our community's
59 vulnerable and food insecure populations.

60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

61 While the working group is developing its recommendations for these
62 types of food enterprises, the City Council encourages the City Manager to cease
63 enforcing structure-based requirements that do not impact life-safety and health at
64 least until December 31, 2020, to avoid losing this valuable network of resources,
65 especially during the upcoming demands that we will see due to COVID-19
66 related lay-offs.

67 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

68 The City Council further directs the City Manager to present the working
69 group's preliminary findings at a Council work session no later than October 27,
70 2020, and to present the final report and items that require Council action,
71 including any proposed fee changes, no later than November 12, 2020.

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73 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2020 **ATTEST:** _____

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Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk