

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

2 **WHEREAS**, a July 2020, survey by the Hobby School of Public Affairs found that
3 music and arts venues, restaurants and bars are the Austin businesses most vulnerable and
4 susceptible to permanent closure; and

5 **WHEREAS**, according to an August 17, 2020, memo from City Staff, the
6 pandemic has exacerbated the significant need for, inequitable access to, and the
7 destabilizing of the existing fragile childcare sector. An estimated 50% of childcare
8 programs nationwide are at risk of going out of business due to COVID-19; and

9 **WHEREAS**, childcare should be viewed as important infrastructure for our
10 community and will be necessary for our city to recover from the pandemic. High quality
11 childcare that is accessible to everyone in our community helps the economy by enabling
12 parents to receive training and to participate in the workforce; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in Austin, our creative spaces and places for social gathering are also
14 important civic infrastructure and help define our city's character and brand; and

15 **WHEREAS**, due to this importance, the city has already allocated directly and
16 indirectly some funding to these sectors and their workers during the pandemic as
17 previously directed through Council Resolutions 20200326-091, 20200326-088,
18 20200409-086, 20200423-040, 20200507-023, 20200521-095, 20200521-096, and 2020-
19 0604-040; and

20 **WHEREAS**, city staff and stakeholders have identified additional funding needed
21 to help these sectors survive during this time, together with the people, entities, and
22 businesses working in them; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the health and vibrancy of these sectors are important to Austin and
24 are a priority in sustaining our quality of life and our economic recovery efforts; **NOW**,

25 **THEREFORE**,

26 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

27 The City Manager is directed to broadly explore and identify funding options to
28 provide financial and equivalent assistance to support the sustainability of the most
29 vulnerable and at-risk live music and arts venues, restaurants, bars, and childcare services.

30 The City Manager is to explore and identify all available public and private funding
31 options, including local, state, and federal sources, non-profit and philanthropic, and to
32 consider legal limitations, impacts on relevant financial policies, and the opportunity costs
33 associated with each option. This exploration and identification of funding options should
34 include, but not be limited to, the following listed sources. The Council wants to
35 understand the associated possibilities, legalities and practicalities to be better able to
36 consider employing one or more of the following options:

- 37 • Additional Federal assistance;
- 38 • State assistance;
- 39 • County assistance;

- 40 • General Fund Reserves;
- 41 • Certificates of Obligation;
- 42 • Contractual Obligations;
- 43 • Sales or other tax revenue;
- 44 • Convention Center reserves, interest or other earned funding;
- 45 • Other departmental funds, programs, services, or capital projects approved in
- 46 the Fiscal Year 20-21, or prior budgets, as appropriate, that might be re-
- 47 prioritized, postponed, financed or accomplished through alternate or outside
- 48 funding; and
- 49 • Property tax abatements and/or payment plans.

50 The City Manager shall also identify the minimum funding, loans and/or
51 abatements needed to have a significant impact on maintaining these sectors for our
52 community.

53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

54 The City Manager is directed to explore and identify additional ways that the city
55 can provide support to these sectors in addition to the funding and financing options
56 addressed above.

57 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

58 The City Manager is directed to begin now to plan for the distribution of any federal
59 or state funding that might become available and directed by City Council for the most
60 vulnerable in these sectors so that assistance may be quickly administered.

61 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

62 These options and recommendations shall be presented to Council at a work session
63 (special called if necessary) as soon as ready but no later than September 29, 2020.

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

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Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

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