

RESOLUTION NO. 20201210-055

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to fostering a culture of compassion for the 13,500 employees that work for the City and the 980,000 residents that call Austin home; and

WHEREAS, a global pandemic and racial unrest have led this nation and communities across the country to an inflection point; and

WHEREAS, despite the polarization playing out on the national stage, the Austin community strives to rise above; and

WHEREAS, compassion is a call to action to both care and take action; and

WHEREAS, the manner in which we treat our neighbors and our most vulnerable is a reflection of a community's values; and

WHEREAS, ALL TOGETHER ATX, a joint effort of United Way of Greater Austin and Austin Community Foundation has raised almost \$6 million dollars to support communities experiencing economic and health-related hardships caused by COVID-19 reflecting the care and compassion of the community; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that practicing compassion produces positive benefits in all sectors of civic and community life; and

WHEREAS, compassion and empathy are skills that can grow when cultivated;
and

WHEREAS, a resolution calling for “Compassion As An Effective Public Policy” was passed by the 81st Annual Meeting of the U.S. Conference for Mayors in June 2013; and

WHEREAS, through Resolution No. 20160414-005, the Austin City Council affirmed the Charter for Compassion and authorized the City’s involvement in the “Compassionate Communities Campaign” and the City’s designation as a compassionate community by resolution in 2016, and

WHEREAS, Compassion 2020 is a national effort to unite people around our shared humanity and encourage thoughtful community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Compassion 2020’s Compassion Contract embodies values shared by the people of Austin including: Be respectful, Listen to understand, Act with good intentions, Support ideas with evidence and experience, Disagree without being disagreeable, Critique the idea not the person, and Invite wonder; and

WHEREAS, a social contract such as the Compassion Contract serves as a written agreement outlining a community’s core values and instructs the direction of laws, regulations, policies, contracts, culture and more; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has yet to adopt a social contract that lays out the community’s values from which policies and programs stem; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City of Austin proudly ENDORSES Compassion 2020, a campaign for a more just, compassionate and anti-racist society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

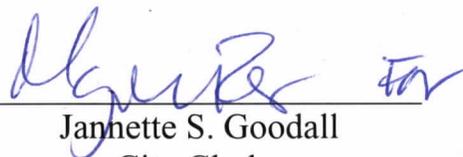
The City Manager is directed to work with the City's Joint Inclusion Committee to craft a social contract for Council adoption, which builds on the Compassion Contract and reflects the City of Austin's core values.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to report back to Council with the Joint Inclusion Committee's recommendations by June 1, 2021.

ADOPTED: December 10, 2020

ATTEST:

for

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk