

27 which established allocations toward emergency response, medical and public health
28 needs, and economic support; and

29 **WHEREAS**, under the CARES Act, county governments were provided
30 coronavirus relief funds based on a formula with guidelines that limited counties
31 from spending funding in incorporated areas within the counties, thus limiting the
32 opportunities for Austin and Travis County to co-invest and work together; and

33 **WHEREAS**, the City and Travis County developed separately their spending
34 frameworks without extensive coordination given the limitations and guidelines
35 associated with that funding; and

36 **WHEREAS**, since Council adopted the initial framework for spending the
37 CARES Act funding, conditions have changed and the City now has an opportunity
38 to implement a spending framework for the ARP funds with greater collaboration
39 and a greater focus on “capacity building” rather than “relief” efforts. Such a new
40 framework should take into account the change in immediate needs and recognize
41 the potential for ARP funding to address future opportunities for our community;
42 and

43 **WHEREAS**, the ARP includes funding for:

- 44 • Direct recovery rebates for individuals
- 45 • Earned Income Tax Credit
- 46 • Child Tax Credit
- 47 • Child & Dependent Care Tax Credit
- 48 • Food banks and community partners
- 49 • Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program (SNAP)
- 50 • Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program
- 51 • Senior nutrition
- 52 • Youth nutrition

- 53 • Nutrition for the homeless
- 54 • Elementary and secondary school education relief fund
- 55 • Colleges and universities
- 56 • School libraries, broadband, and special education
- 57 • Public health testing, contact tracing, surveillance, and mitigation
- 58 • Technical assistance to localities for public health efforts
- 59 • Medical supplies such as personal protective equipment (PPE)
- 60 • Public health workforce
- 61 • Childcare and development block grant program
- 62 • Head Start
- 63 • Centers for Disease Control (CDC) funding for vaccine distribution
- 64 capabilities
- 65 • Research and development for vaccines and therapeutics
- 66 • Mental health and substance use
- 67 • Health surveillance and data modernization
- 68 • Public health volunteers and strengthening response
- 69 • National Health Service Corps and loan repayment
- 70 • Community Health Centers
- 71 • In-house services for older Americans
- 72 • Medicaid
- 73 • Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- 74 • Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- 75 • Water assistance
- 76 • Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster and
- 77 humanitarian relief
- 78 • First responder grants

- 79 • Cybersecurity risk mitigation
- 80 • Grants to identify and address disproportionate environmental or public
- 81 health harms and risks in minority or low-income populations
- 82 • Emergency rental assistance
- 83 • Homeowner assistance fund
- 84 • Homelessness
- 85 • Small Business Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)
- 86 • Restaurant Revitalization Fund
- 87 • Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program
- 88 • Community Navigator Pilot Program
- 89 • Unemployment insurance
- 90 • Payroll tax credit extension for paid sick, family and medical leave
- 91 • Amtrak
- 92 • Aviation
- 93 • Public transit
- 94 • Cultural agencies; and

95 **WHEREAS**, funding related to the ARP includes funding associated with
96 initiatives such as the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Act of 2021
97 (CRRSA) which included items such as \$15 billion for struggling live venues, movie
98 theatres and museums and \$325 billion for small businesses; and

99 **WHEREAS**, the ARP includes local funding based on a new formula that
100 awards funding to cities, directly to those eligible for Community Development
101 Block Grants and indirectly and through the State to other cities; and

102 **WHEREAS**, allocations to counties will be based in significant part on total
103 population and also unemployment rates and will be available for county-wide use,
104 including for residents in any cities located within county boundaries; and,

105 **WHEREAS**, ARP funding for Travis County and its included cities are
106 estimated to be the following:

107 Direct Allocation – CDBG Entitlement City

- 108 • Austin - \$195.8 million
- 109 • Pflugerville - \$6.71 million
- 110 • Round Rock - \$16.84 million
- 111 • Travis County - \$247.08 million

112 Sub-Allocation from the State

- 113 • Bee Cave - \$1.49 million
- 114 • Cedar Park - \$17.33 million
- 115 • Creedmore - \$50,000
- 116 • Elgin - \$2.25 million
- 117 • Jonestown - \$460,000
- 118 • Lago Vista - \$1.65 million
- 119 • Lakeway - \$3.48 million
- 120 • Leander - \$13.65 million
- 121 • Manor - \$3.02 million
- 122 • Mustang Ridge - \$210,000
- 123 • Rollingwood - \$350,000
- 124 • Sunset Valley - \$150,000
- 125 • West Lake Hills - \$720,000; and

126 **WHEREAS**, Council has consistently placed homelessness as its top budget
127 priority, a challenge that significantly raises issues of housing and housing
128 insecurity, mental health, and substance use assistance and intervention, but funding
129 necessary to meet these challenges has been difficult to scale to the level needed;
130 and

131 **WHEREAS**, in 2018 the City Council approved the Action Plan to End
132 Homelessness, setting out a blueprint for the strategies our community must deploy
133 to end homelessness in our city; and

134 **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin has implemented multiple city programs and
135 funded others in the community aimed at supporting individuals in moving from
136 homelessness into safe and stable housing; and

137 **WHEREAS**, Council passed Resolution No. 20210204-049, initiating the
138 Homeless Encampment Assistance Link (HEAL) program to further address the
139 priority of unsheltered homelessness, but funding necessary to house individuals
140 without homes and to help them move out of encampments will be difficult to obtain
141 and sustain at the scale needed; and

142 **WHEREAS**, Austin and Travis County have maintained amongst the lowest
143 rates of evictions in the country throughout the pandemic, but any wave of evictions
144 in the pandemic recovery could significantly worsen the levels of homelessness; and

145 **WHEREAS**, a summit to address unsheltered homelessness is being
146 convened with broad community and subject matter expert involvement to propose
147 a timeline with the actions and transformational investments needed to reach net-
148 effective zero homelessness that will require both public and private participation
149 and funding at levels commensurate with the scale of the challenge; and

150 **WHEREAS**, Austin and Travis County have other priority challenges
151 including early childhood care and education, workforce development and work
152 programs, and food insecurity that could also benefit from significant and material
153 investment of a scale that would not be available absent this ARP opportunity and
154 for which the ARP can provide long-term capacity building; and

155 **WHEREAS**, there still remain present, immediate, and emergency relief and
156 planned public health needs that need to be met from the ARP and related funding,
157 some of which will come from the individual ARP-designated funding programs and
158 some of which will need to come from the general allocation to cities and counties;

159 **NOW THEREFORE,**

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

161 The City Manager is directed to inventory Austin, Travis County, and other
162 regional funding available for relief and recovery needs from the ARP and any other
163 related federal, state or local assistance. This inventory should include programs
164 administered by local government entities, as well as those distributed through
165 federal agencies or directly through designated partners.

166 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

167 The City Manager is directed to identify Austin priority need(s) or
168 challenge(s) that could be addressed in a transformational and generational way with
169 funding at a sufficient scale that is not as available absent the opportunity presented
170 by the ARP and related funding.

171 A focused list of transformational investments for the region would not
172 prevent support for an additional group of programs, but the extent to which
173 transformational results can be achieved will be limited by a lack of focus in

174 prioritization. The City Manager’s evaluation should include the following priority
175 (ies) and challenge(s), listed in priority order, and recognizing that sufficient funding
176 might not be available to address all priorities and challenges at the desired scale:

- 177 • Homelessness, and related housing, mental health, and substance use
178 issues;
- 179 • Early childhood care and education;
- 180 • Workforce development and work programs
- 181 • Food insecurity.

182 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

183 The City Manager is directed to identify immediate and emergency
184 relief needs and planned public health expenses (such as were identified in the
185 CARES Act spending framework) that are so significant that they should be
186 considered for funding from the ARP and related funds. Ending the pandemic public
187 health crisis is the top priority for addressing the economic disaster and saving lives.

188 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

189 The City Manager is directed to work with regional partners, especially
190 including Travis County because of the greatest overlap of residents, to identify
191 shared priorities, challenges and opportunities for joint investment and action.

192 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

193 The City Manager is directed to find and develop leveraging opportunities that
194 may have a maximum impact in addressing priorities and challenges.

195 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

196 The City Manager is directed to prioritize building long-term capacity rather
197 than relief and returning to pre-existing conditions wherever appropriate and
198 available.

199 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

200 The City Manager is directed to identify opportunities to maximize the
201 recovery for residents and for businesses of funding that is awarded to them directly
202 with the strategic use of navigators or facilitators. For example, the federal
203 government will make approximately \$16 billion available to shuttered venue
204 operators (from both the APR and the CRRSA) and approximately \$29 billion for
205 restaurants, both on a first-come, first-served basis; as many of our qualifying local
206 creative venues and restaurants as possible should be prepared with the support of
207 the city to submit their applications for this funding the moment the Small Business
208 Administration opens up its online application process.

209 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

210 The City Manager shall designate one or more city staff members to oversee
211 the process, to ensure that individual departments are first exploring to the fullest
212 extent opportunities which may exist outside of the general allocation, and to
213 encourage creative and innovative ways to address immediate needs in ways that
214 produce longer-term, sustainable support.

215 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

216 Taking into account the elements identified above, the City Manager is
217 directed to present to the City Council a proposed strategic framework for spending
218 the ARP funding, with initial recommendations no later than April 12, 2021, that

219 focuses to the greatest extent possible on our key priority(ies) and challenge(s), and
220 those investments should be deployed in a manner that allows for the greatest
221 transformational and generational advances.

222 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

223 The City Manager is directed to report to City Council by April 12, 2021 with
224 a clear accounting of the City's year to date revenue gaps, expected Fiscal Year 2021
225 revenues relative to the Fiscal Year 2021 projected budget, and, where feasible,
226 updated projections for Fiscal Year 2022 revenues. Where an existing or projected
227 loss of revenue is tied to a specific department's activities, the City Manager should
228 provide details on potential impacts to programming and staffing.

229

230

231 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2021 **ATTEST:** _____

232

233

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk