

23 **WHEREAS**, prevention of violence occurs along a continuum that begins in
24 early childhood with programs to help parents raise emotionally healthy children
25 and ends with efforts to identify and intervene with troubled individuals who are
26 threatening violence; and

27 **WHEREAS**, firearm prohibitions for high-risk groups – domestic violence
28 offenders, persons convicted of violent misdemeanor crimes, and individuals with
29 mental illness who have been adjudicated as being a threat to themselves or to
30 others – have been shown to reduce violence; and

31 **WHEREAS**, in August 2019, City Council approved the creation of a Gun
32 Violence Task Force to advise the Council on potential actions the City can take to
33 reduce gun violence at the local level and to make recommendations for enhancing
34 existing resources and campaigns; and

35 **WHEREAS**, in July 2020, the Gun Violence Task Force released their final
36 report, which included various recommendations including the creation of an
37 Office of Violence Prevention; and

38 **WHEREAS**, in August 2020, City Council approved funding of an Office
39 of Violence Prevention that will focus on community-led solutions for people and
40 neighborhoods consistently plagued by violence; and

41 **WHEREAS**, in March 2021, Austin Public Health requested applications
42 from qualified social service providers (Applicants) to manage the city-owned
43 domestic violence shelter and provide supportive services, housing assistance, and
44 direct client assistance (RFA #003 Domestic Violence Shelter - 2021 NPS); and

45

46 **WHEREAS**, in April 2021, Austin Police Department Interim Chief Joe
47 Chacon announced a new initiative to combat local gun violence; and

48 **WHEREAS**, the Austin Police Department has reported an increase in gun
49 violence and cited that many of the firearms used in these crimes were obtained
50 illegally; and

51 **WHEREAS**, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers
52 Memorial Fund, in 2011, firearms were the number one cause of death for police
53 officers killed in the line of duty; and

54 **WHEREAS**, during the 116th and the 117th Congress, House Resolution 8
55 (H.R. 8) was approved on a bipartisan basis in the United States House of
56 Representatives to require background checks for all commercial gun sales; and

57 **WHEREAS**, approval of H.R. 8, marked the first time major gun safety
58 legislation has passed the United States House of Representatives in more than
59 twenty years; and

60 **WHEREAS**, since H.R. 8 was passed by the United States House of
61 Representatives in the 116th and the 117th Congress, the United States Senate has
62 not debated or voted on this important legislation; and

63 **WHEREAS**, it is estimated that 99.85 percent of Americans will know a
64 victim of gun violence and 54 percent of U.S. gun owners admit that they do not
65 store their guns safely; nearly 1,300 children in the United States die from gun-
66 related injuries every year; and nationally, occupational homicide by shooting has
67 increased steadily since 2011; and

68

69 **WHEREAS**, in addition to the daily scourge of gun violence, Texas has
70 suffered numerous mass acts of gun violence including on August 3, 2019 in El
71 Paso, Texas where 23 individuals were killed and 23 people were injured by a
72 shooter who allegedly uploaded an online manifesto describing a so-called
73 "Hispanic invasion of Texas," and referencing inspiration from the attack on
74 mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand that left 51 dead and 40 injured; and

75 **WHEREAS**, after the May 18, 2018, shooting at Santa Fe High School, in
76 Santa Fe, Texas, where 10 people were killed and 13 injured, Texas Governor
77 Greg Abbott met with superintendents, administrators, law enforcement officials,
78 as well as survivors of gun violence, to discuss policies that could increase the
79 safety of schools and communities while preserving Second Amendment rights;
80 and

81 **WHEREAS**, on May 30, 2018, Texas Governor Greg Abbott released a
82 School and Firearm Safety Action Plan, which included a recommendation
83 encouraging the Texas Senate and House leaders to consider the merits of adopting
84 "extreme risk protection order" law, also known as "red flag laws," allowing law
85 enforcement, a family member, a school employee, or a district attorney to file a
86 petition seeking the removal of firearms from a potentially dangerous person only
87 after legal due process is provided; and

88 **WHEREAS**, Texas Governor Greg Abbott's School and Firearm Safety
89 Action Plan described the red flag laws as a proposal which could have been used
90 to prevent the shootings at Sutherland Springs and at Marjory Stoneman Douglas
91 High School in Parkland, Florida; and

92

93 **WHEREAS**, on average over 3,350 gun-related deaths occur in Texas each
94 year; and

95 **WHEREAS**, in October of 2019, Everytown for Gun Safety, the country’s
96 largest gun violence prevention organization, released the report, “Guns and
97 Intimate Partner Violence: America’s Uniquely Lethal Intimate Partner Violence
98 Problem,” and found that in at least 54 percent of mass shootings the perpetrator
99 shot a current or former intimate partner or family member; and

100 **WHEREAS**, the report also found that between 2009 and 2018, 80 percent
101 of child victims of mass shootings died in incidents connected to domestic or
102 family violence; and

103 **WHEREAS**, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s 2019 report,
104 “Uniform Crime Reporting Program: Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR)
105 2014-2018,” every month, an average of 53 women are shot and killed by an
106 intimate partner and nearly 1 million women alive today have reported being shot
107 or shot at by intimate partners; and

108 **WHEREAS**, during the 86th Legislative Session the Texas House and
109 Senate did not approve important gun safety legislation consistent with Texas
110 Governor Greg Abbott’s 2018 School and Firearm Safety Action Plan and
111 adjourned without taking sufficient action to reduce the risk of gun violence in our
112 schools and communities; and

113 **WHEREAS**, local organizations, including Texas Gun Sense and local
114 chapters of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, have advocated at
115 the Texas Legislature for sensible gun safety legislation; and

116

117 **WHEREAS**, during the 87th Texas Legislature, the Texas House passed HB
118 1927 which would eliminate the requirement for Texans to get a license to carry a
119 firearm if they are not already prohibited by state or federal law from possessing a
120 firearm; and

121 **WHEREAS**, City Council has taken extensive action to address the
122 epidemic of gun violence including Resolution No. 20130228-035 signifying City
123 Council's intent to endorse efforts to develop a comprehensive approach to
124 reducing gun crime as well as Resolution Nos. 20161215-064, 20171207-054,
125 20180510-047, 20190808-149, and 20190822-069; and

126 **WHEREAS**, Austin has continued to experience the daily toll of gun
127 violence, including events such as the January 27th, 2021 fatal shooting of a local
128 pediatrician, the non-fatal shooting involving a law enforcement officer on April
129 9th, 2021, and the fatal shooting of three individuals in Austin, Texas on April
130 18th, 2021; and

131 **WHEREAS**, public health policy and laws that reduce traffic and
132 occupational injuries and
133 fatalities are outstanding examples that may be easily adapted to firearm issues to
134 reduce harm; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

136 City Council implores the state and federal governments to immediately take
137 emergency action to end gun violence and address the associated public health and
138 public safety crisis; and

139

140 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

141 City Council calls on Texas Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas
142 Legislature to advance proposals included in Governor Abbott's own 2018 School
143 and Firearm Safety Action Plan, including the adoption of an "extreme risk
144 protection order" law that protects the lives of Texans and is consistent with the 2nd
145 Amendment; and

146 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

147 City Council calls on the Texas Senate to protect and preserve our existing
148 statewide requirements to require a license to carry a handgun; and

149 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

150 City Council calls on the United States Senate to immediately begin debate
151 and deliberation on H.R. 8 and other meaningful gun safety legislation that has
152 been approved by the United States House of Representatives and remains
153 languishing in the Senate; and

154 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

155 City Council directs the City Manager to ensure the appropriate staff are
156 engaged with Travis County elected officials, Travis County staff, the
157 Austin/Travis County Family Violence Task Force, and any other relevant entities
158 on the implementation and improvement of firearm surrender protocols in Travis
159 County and surrounding counties and to report back to Council on the status of
160 those efforts and whether any improvements can be made to those protocols within
161 the next 90 days; and

162

163 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

164 City Council directs the City Manager to send a copy of this Resolution to
165 the Texas delegation of the United States Congress and to the White House; and

166 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

167 City Council directs the City Manager to send a copy of Governor Abbott's
168 School and Firearm Safety Action Plan along with a copy of this Resolution to the
169 Travis, Williamson, and Hays County delegation of the Texas House and Senate,
170 the Texas Governor, the Texas Lieutenant Governor, and to the Speaker of the
171 Texas House of Representatives.

172 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2021 **ATTEST:** _____

173 Jannette S. Goodall
174 City Clerk
175
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