RESOLUTION NO.

2	WHEREAS, all Austinites deserve a healthy and safe home; and
3	WHEREAS, a healthy and safe home is a home free from mold; and
4	WHEREAS, Winter Storm Uri has caused an increase in health and safety
5	issues for Austinites, including significant water damage and leaks leading to mold
6	growth and diminished air quality; and
7	WHEREAS, mold is known to cause health issues, such as shortness of
8	breath, skin and eye irritation, asthma, allergies, and other respiratory ailments; and
9	WHEREAS, communities of color and working class communities are
10	disparately impacted by unsafe and unhealthy housing conditions; and
11	WHEREAS, renters often rely on City enforcement to get their landlords to
12	address health and safety issues in their homes; and
13	WHEREAS, currently, no city department has explicit authority to regulate
14	mold and address tenant complaints of mold in their homes; and
15	WHEREAS, renters do not have reliable recourse with the City of Austin to
16	ensure their landlords address mold and often do not have the resources or ability to
17	address the issues themselves; and
18	WHEREAS, local governments across the country differ on how they
19	regulate and enforce mold issues, including whether they enforce through a code,
20	health, or housing department; and
21	WHEREAS, Austin should improve its regulation and enforcement of mold
22	as a health and safety issue; NOW, THEREFORE,

23	BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:
24	The City Council directs the City Manager to improve the City's response to
25	addressing health and safety issues related to mold and rental housing. The City
26	Manager should provide a report by August 13, 2021 on health and safety issues
27	related to mold and rental housing and should take the steps necessary to implement
28	recommendations as needed to improve the City's response. The report shall include:
29 30	• a survey of local government regulations, complaint processes, and enforcement practices regarding mold,
31	• whether specific relocation assistance is provided during mold remediation
32	in other jurisdictions,
33	• whether the regulations pertain to rental or non-rental properties, and
34	• recommendations for the City of Austin based on best practices, including
35	which department should enforce mold regulations, and the resources

needed to enact the recommendations.