

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, all Austinites deserve a healthy and safe home; and

WHEREAS, a healthy and safe home is a home free from mold; and

WHEREAS, Winter Storm Uri has caused an increase in health and safety issues for Austinites, including significant water damage and leaks leading to mold growth and diminished air quality; and

WHEREAS, mold is known to cause health issues, such as shortness of breath, skin and eye irritation, asthma, allergies, and other respiratory ailments; and

WHEREAS, communities of color and working class communities are disparately impacted by unsafe and unhealthy housing conditions; and

WHEREAS, renters often rely on City enforcement to get their landlords to address health and safety issues in their homes; and

WHEREAS, currently, no city department has explicit authority to regulate mold and address tenant complaints of mold in their homes; and

WHEREAS, renters do not have reliable recourse with the City of Austin to ensure their landlords address mold and often do not have the resources or ability to address the issues themselves; and

WHEREAS, local governments across the country differ on how they regulate and enforce mold issues, including whether they enforce through a code, health, or housing department; and

WHEREAS, Austin should improve its regulation and enforcement of mold as a health and safety issue; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Council directs the City Manager to improve the City's response to addressing health and safety issues related to mold and rental housing. The City Manager should provide a report by August 13, 2021 on health and safety issues related to mold and rental housing and should take the steps necessary to implement recommendations as needed to improve the City's response. The report shall include:

- a survey of state and local government regulations, complaint processes, and enforcement practices regarding mold,
- whether specific relocation assistance is provided during mold remediation in other jurisdictions,
- whether the regulations pertain to rental or non-rental properties,
- what existing resources exist for mold remediation through FEMA or other sources, and
- recommendations for the City of Austin based on best practices, including which department should enforce mold regulations, how we can facilitate access to existing resources for financing mold remediation, and the resources needed to enact the recommendations.

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

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk