

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, after the collapse of the Afghanistan government and the Taliban takeover of
4 Kabul, Afghanistan's capital city, many Afghan citizens are leaving the country and seeking asylum;
5 and

6 **WHEREAS**, thousands of Afghan citizens supported American and allied forces, standing
7 side-by-side with our service members, diplomats, and aid workers while serving as interpreters,
8 engineers, logistical service providers, and more; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the city of Austin has historically been a haven for refugees escaping war and
10 political violence; and

11 **WHEREAS**, since 2010, Refugee Services of Texas has welcomed more than 2,400 special
12 immigration visa holders from Afghanistan and Iraq into the Austin community and into our public
13 schools, without controversy; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Afghan refugees are currently arriving in Texas cities, including
15 in Austin, for resettlement; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

17 The City Council wishes to offer a home in Austin for the refugees of the war in Afghanistan
18 and hereby notifies the United States federal government that the City of Austin stands ready to
19 welcome Afghan refugees and;

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

21 The City Council directs the City Manager to coordinate any necessary response with county,
22 state, and federal government departments and agencies in accordance with previously established
23 and proven best practices for emergency resettlement.

24 **ADOPTED:** _____ 2021 **ATTEST:** _____
25 Jannette S. Goodall
26 City Clerk