ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE NUMBER OF SPECIAL EVENTS DAYS AT ZILKER METROPOLITAN PARK FOR THE 2021 TRAIL OF LIGHTS EVENT.

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

PART 1. FINDINGS. The council finds the following:

1. The annual Trail of Lights event occurs in December annually and is a partnership with the City of Austin ("Trail of Lights Event");

2. An unprecedented pandemic, COVID -19, has affected the globe and created enhanced safety requirements and significant planning which has affected live events world-wide;

3. Planning for large events in any year requires significant dependable variables to allow for appropriate organization, promotion and publication of event details;

4. A traditional in-person event is not possible, safe or in alignment with protecting the community's health;

5. For the 2021 event year, a drive-through event may be the only safe way for Austinites to enjoy holiday activities;

6. The timeline needed to plan a successful event that can accommodate a modified number of attendees in vehicles requires advance approval of the maximum number of event nights possible to ensure a meaningful experience for the maximum number of Austinites possible in a drive-through event;

7. The Trail of Lights Event must obtain Austin Public Health's approval as well as comply with City's special event permitting process;

8. Approximately 1,300 cars per event night can be safely accommodated in a drive-through model;

9. A drive-through event will allow Barton Springs Road, FM 2244 and Texas Loop 1 (MoPac) access roads to remain open;

10. A drive-through event will allow existing Trail of Lights Foundation programs such as "STARS Nights" to continue;

11. The Trail of Lights Foundation will not assess an admission fee in 2021 if the event is drive-through; and

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12. Due to the extenuating and unprecedented circumstances, this ordinance provides a viable option for the 2021 Trail of Lights Event, which is a large and important community event, should local conditions fail to improve.

PART 2. For the reasons described above, council amends section 8-1-15(C)(1) (*Limits on Special Events*) to authorize up to 15 additional event days for the 2021 Trail of Lights Event. This amendment authorizes the 2021 Trail of Lights Event to use Zilker Metropolitan Park for a maximum of 30 days if Austin's stage of risk is Stage 3, 4, or 5 as set forth in Austin Public Health's risk-based guidelines and the 2021 Trail of Lights event:

(a) is drive-through only; and

(b) complies with all other special event requirements, including approval from Austin Public Health.

PART 3. This ordinance takes effect on _____, 2021.

PASSED AND APPROVED

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_____, 2021 § _____
Steve Adler
Mayor

APPROVED: _____ **ATTEST:** _____
Anne L. Morgan
City Attorney

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

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