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RESOLUTION NO.

3 **WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, in order to help governmental entities
4 address the health risks of COVID-19, Governor Abbott suspended certain sections
5 of the Open Meetings Act, allowing governing bodies to conduct their meetings
6 entirely virtually; this suspension ended in September 2021; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Austin City Council conducted Council meetings virtually
8 starting March 2020, allowing all Council Members and the Mayor to attend the
9 meetings virtually, and

10 **WHEREAS**, starting in March 2020 City Council meeting testimony was
11 conducted via telephone; and

12 **WHEREAS**, during the same time period, the over 70 Boards and
13 Commissions and their established Committees (Subcommittees) also met
14 virtually; and

15 **WHEREAS**, offering a phone option for speakers allows for more equitable
16 and accessible opportunities for participation at City Council meetings, Board and
17 Commission meetings, and Subcommittee meetings; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the virtual meetings, with a remote option for speakers, have
19 required significant staff time and resources; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the City Clerk issued two memos on September 10, 2021, that
21 outlined the resources needed to continue with virtual options for Council
22 meetings, Boards and Commission meetings, and Subcommittee meetings; **NOW,**
23 **THEREFORE,**

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

25 The City Manager is directed to bring a budget amendment to Council by
26 November 4, 2021 for the required resources, which may include those outlined in
27 the September 10, 2021 memos from the City Clerk, to accommodate the resources
28 and staff needed to continue virtual testimony and hybrid participation of Council
29 Members, Board and Commission Members, and Subcommittee members.

30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

31 The City Clerk is directed to bring any necessary Code Amendments to
32 Chapter 2-1 by November 4, 2021 that help allow for hybrid participation at
33 meetings of Boards and Commissions and their Subcommittees, including waiving
34 requirements that a quorum must be physically present at a meeting to conduct
35 business; the Open Meetings Act shall still apply to Boards and Commissions and
36 to their Subcommittees.

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

39 Jannette S. Goodall
40 City Clerk
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