

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

2 **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin has officially recognized Intersex
3 Awareness Day since 2019 to raise visibility for a marginalized and often forgotten
4 group that is estimated to comprise nearly 2% of the population; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Council Member Casar on behalf of Mayor Adler made a
6 proclamation on October 17, 2019 to do better by intersex Austinites alongside
7 Mayor Adler, Council Members Ellis, Renteria, Harper-Madison and then-Council
8 Member Flannigan; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin recognizes that intersex persons face
10 violence, discrimination, stigma, harassment, and persecution on account of their
11 sex characteristics, which do not fit binary notions of typical male or female
12 bodies; and,

13 **WHEREAS**, we bear witness to this violation of basic human rights, and
14 will strive to do better as a city—celebrating the diversity of all Austin residents,
15 including intersex individuals, moving forward; and,

16 **WHEREAS**, the New York State legislature passed a resolution in 2021
17 (Assembly Resolution No. 432) formally condemning non-consensual and
18 medically unnecessary surgeries performed on intersex children as violate their
19 reproductive rights, gender identity and expression and body autonomy; and

20 **WHEREAS**, this resolution abides by the recommendations of the World
21 Health Organization, the United Nations, the American Medical Association Board
22 of Trustees' 2016 report, three former US Surgeons General and manifold
23 additional medical and human rights experts and multinational organizations; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the Texas Legislature has introduced and passed bills in recent
25 sessions that infringe on reproductive rights and body autonomy and that would
26 allow for discrimination based on gender identity and expression; and

27 **WHEREAS**, parents across the city and state should have access to current
28 and accurate information concerning healthcare for their intersex children; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin is committed to providing the most current,
30 accurate, factual and rigorously tested information to its residents pertaining to
31 their public health and wellbeing; and

32 **WHEREAS**, in 2021, the New York City Council resoundingly passed a
33 bill mandating the city’s health department to develop educational materials about
34 how “gender normalizing” surgeries on children born with variations in their sex
35 characteristics are medically unnecessary and can inflict irreversible physical and
36 psychological harm; and

37 **WHEREAS**, there are accredited and qualified organizations, doctors and
38 advocates that could assist Austin Public Health in the creation of a similar
39 campaign to the one mandated in New York City; and

40 **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin has enacted policy to support reproductive
41 rights and body autonomy, such as the provision of comprehensive abortion
42 funding and addressing a backlog of rape-kits; and

43 **WHEREAS**, the Human Rights Commission passed Recommendation No.
44 20210927-003a concerning intersex rights and healthcare on September 27, 2021;

45 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

48 The Austin City Council formally condemns non-consensual and medically
49 unnecessary surgeries on intersex children.

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

51 The City Council directs to City Manager to explore methods to implement a
52 public education campaign to provide accurate, affirming information to the
53 doctors and parents of intersex children about these children’s health, to counter
54 misinformation that can be presented as medical advice.

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

57 Jannette S. Goodall
58 City Clerk