

RESOLUTION NO.

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2
3 **WHEREAS**, Onion Creek crested just over 40 feet at US 183 on the
4 morning of October 31, 2013, for a new record height for this location, which
5 produced approximately 135,000 cubic feet per second; and

6 **WHEREAS**, across Travis County and the City of Austin, more than 700
7 homes were damaged by flooding, and hundreds were destroyed; and

8 **WHEREAS**, many of the affected homes were not protected by flood
9 insurance and were within the 100-year floodplain of Onion Creek; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in response to the 2013 Halloween Flood in Onion Creek, the
11 City Council passed Resolution No. 20140515-028 directing the City Manager to
12 provide a report to Council regarding the needs associated with a study of feasible
13 flood mitigation options within the Onion Creek floodplain outside of the William
14 Cannon Drive and Pleasant Valley Road area; and

15 **WHEREAS**, in response to the 2015 Halloween Flood in Onion Creek, the
16 City Council passed a resolution directing the City Manager to provide an
17 accelerated conceptual evaluation of potential flood mitigation alternatives; and

18 **WHEREAS**, with a projected increase of extreme weather events with
19 climate change, it remains crucial that the City of Austin continue to actively
20 pursue flood risk mitigation as a step toward environmental, economic, and social
21 resiliency, as described in the response to Resolution No. 20131121-060; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin recognizes that there is still much work to
23 be done, especially to address the challenges of climate change and racial inequity;
24 and

25 **WHEREAS**, City Council’s adoption of the Austin Community Climate
26 Plan in June of 2015 reconfirmed Austin’s climate leadership by recognizing the
27 importance of adaptation to increase resilience in the face of extreme weather and
28 climate change impacts; and

29 **WHEREAS**, per the City of Austin’s Federal Legislative Agenda for the
30 117th Congress, the City of Austin supports continued funding of federal programs
31 to mitigate damages from flooding incurred by the increasing number of extreme
32 weather events, including but not limited to additional funding to improve
33 floodplain maps based on the best available information and the Disaster Recovery
34 Reform Act of 2018; and

35 **WHEREAS**, the Legislature of the State of Texas, in Section 16.315, Texas
36 Water Code, delegates the responsibility to local government units to adopt
37 regulations designed to minimize flood losses; and

38 **WHEREAS**, it is the purpose of the City of Austin to continue to promote
39 the public health, safety and general welfare by minimizing public and private
40 losses due to flood conditions in specific areas; and

41 **WHEREAS**, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan states, “The
42 challenges of a growing population, finite natural and fiscal resources, and a
43 changing climate will require Austinites and their local government to become ever
44 more resilient. Resilience — the ability to adapt to challenges and change — will
45 be a hallmark of successful communities in the 21st century”; and

46 **WHEREAS**, according to Austin Public Health’s Community Health
47 Assessment, access to healthcare, healthy food, transportation, and affordability
48 were identified by community members as major barriers to health and wellbeing

49 and these inequities also restrict the ability to adapt to changing climate conditions;
50 and

51 **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin’s Hazard Mitigation Action Plan describes
52 methods for achieving future hazard mitigation measures by expanding existing
53 capabilities, including reviewing current floodplain ordinances for opportunities to
54 increase resiliency, and providing access to resources; and

55 **WHEREAS**, many low-income homeowners may not have access to the
56 resources needed to resolve code compliance issues or make adequate repairs and
57 upgrades to their homes to become resilient during a natural disaster; and

58 **WHEREAS**, in 2018, voters approved the issuance of \$184,000,000 in
59 general obligation bonds for flood mitigation, open space and water quality and
60 quantity for planning, designing, acquiring, constructing, and installing
61 improvements and facilities for flood control, erosion control, water quality, water
62 quantity, and storm-water drainage, and acquiring land, open spaces, and interests
63 in land and property necessary to do so; and

64 **WHEREAS**, the Climate Resilience Action Plan, adopted in April of 2018,
65 provides an overview of climate projections for the City of Austin, an assessment
66 of potential extreme weather impacts to City-owned assets and operations, and
67 strategies to mitigate those impacts; and

68 **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 20150604-044 directed the Flood Mitigation
69 Task Force to review existing flood mitigation and preparedness strategies, which
70 resulted in the recommendation to implement City policies, programs, training
71 opportunities and interdepartmental collaboration to enhance flood mitigation and
72 preparedness; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

74 The City hereby affirms its commitment to building a flood resilient
75 community by addressing current risks, supporting safer regulations, encouraging
76 robust community engagement efforts and emergency preparedness in
77 collaboration with the 5-county regional partners;

78 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

79 The City Manager is directed to work with the Onion Creek Metropolitan
80 Park District to identify a prominent location within Onion Creek Metropolitan
81 Park and to work with Austin Art in Public Places to explore placing a mural, for a
82 memorial in honor of the Halloween Floods of 2013 and 2015, including funding
83 recommendations;

84 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

85 The City Manager is directed to address the financial assistance needs
86 associated with resolving code compliance issues, eliminating damage caused by
87 flooding, and making adequate repairs and upgrades to homes, including but not
88 limited to floodproofing, installing gutters, and constructing drainage swales by:

- 89 1. Identifying and summarizing state and federal funding opportunities
90 that could be used for flood mitigation and risk reduction; and
- 91 2. Providing a summary of existing funding accessible to homeowners
92 and property owners, including tenants, for local flood mitigation and
93 risk reduction in the Austin area; and
- 94 3. Providing a summary of existing City programs and/or initiatives
95 aimed at educating residents about available funding opportunities in
96 addition to the various application processes and periods;

97 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

98 The City Manager is directed to initiate community outreach to identify and
99 contact eligible residents that qualify for the identified funding opportunities
100 during the 2021-2022 funding periods, and report on the outcome of the outreach;

101 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

102 The City Manager is directed to provide recommendations for existing
103 contracts with vendors to deliver training and education to the community for
104 emergency preparedness and response. The contract(s) should focus on extreme
105 weather preparedness and disaster/evacuation planning, education on climate-
106 related health risks, and introducing available resilience tools and resources;

107 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

108 The City Manager is directed to amend the Federal Legislative agenda to
109 seek additional support for funding programs to assist individuals with reducing
110 and eliminating the risk of flood damage, and making flood insurance more
111 affordable to low-income residents, and advocate for it at the federal level;

112 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

113 The City Manager is directed to report back to Council no later than 90 days
114 with the report in response to this Resolution.

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

116 Jannette S. Goodall
117 City Clerk
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