RESOLUTION NO. 20210930-162

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council identified the number and percentage of persons who successfully exit homelessness as a strategic outcome indicator in the Austin Strategic Direction 2023 plan, and the Council has identified ending homelessness in Austin as its top priority; and

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council adopted Resolution No. 20141002-043 that declared Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) to be the primary intervention to end homelessness for the City of Austin, and established an initial community target of 400 PSH units; and

WHEREAS, a community-led Homelessness Summit held between March 23 and April 15, 2021, established the goal of housing over 3,000 additional people experiencing homelessness in three years, including revamping our response system; providing housing stabilization such as prevention, diversion and rapid exit; fully rehousing across the spectrum of need; and specifically including the development of at least 1,000 units of permanent supportive housing; and

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council adopted Resolution No. 20210520-039 which incorporated the community summit’s goal and initiated an amendment to the Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint to reflect the goal of over 3,000 plus homes by 2024 and a target of funding 350 PSH units per year beginning in Fiscal Year 2022; and
WHEREAS, the Austin City Council adopted Resolution No. 20130808-063 which directed the City Manager to develop criteria for an expedited permit review; and

WHEREAS, subsequent Council action has provided policy direction regarding the eligibility of projects that demonstrate high community value; and

WHEREAS, City Code Section 25-1-721 defines “supportive housing” as housing that includes non-time-limited affordable housing assistance with wrap-around supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as other individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, a number of affordable housing projects that include PSH units will be seeking development approval in order to achieve the Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint target of 350 units per year, and the community goal of housing over 3,000 people experiencing homelessness by 2024; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

The City Manager is directed to establish an expedited review and prioritization program for City processes including, but not limited to, site plan and permit review for residential developments that will provide significant permanent supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness; and, when developing this expedited review program, the City Manager should include the Homeless Strategy Officer in discussions to develop the eligibility criteria.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to report back to City Council and present any necessary instruments, including City code amendments, required to implement this expedited review and prioritization by the December 9, 2021, Council Meeting.

ADOPTED: September 30, 2021  ATTEST: Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk