

**RESOLUTION NO. 20220203-039**

**WHEREAS**, renter rights in Austin are more important than ever and should be expanded;

**WHEREAS**, Austin is a city that embraces a culture of community, worker, and tenant organizing, and renters should have the freedom to exercise their rights; and

**WHEREAS**, successful organizing has led to improved housing conditions, lower rents, fairer community rules, and has stopped or slowed evictions and displacement; and

**WHEREAS**, in several types of federally-subsidized properties—such as project-based Section 8 and Section 811 apartments—renters have the freedom to exercise their rights in ways that should be applied to all renters across Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, at least 24 states and D.C. have adopted whistleblower and anti-retaliation protections for tenants who establish or participate in a tenant's organization that exceed Texas's retaliation protections; and

**WHEREAS**, The Uprooted Project at the University of Texas at Austin recommends tenant organizing rights as an important tool for fighting displacement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Austin City Council supports renters' rights and the freedom to assemble and ask for improved conditions and policies impacting their homes; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to prepare a code amendment that establishes renters' rights for Council consideration by the July 28, 2022 Council agenda. To the extent legally and practically feasible, the rights should include the protected tenant organizing activities described in Exhibit A. The City Manager is also directed to provide a legal analysis, that Council may determine the

appropriateness of publicly sharing with the community and stakeholders, of what the impact implementing these regulations could have on both residents and rental housing providers, their agents, and property managers.


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to engage stakeholders including the Austin Apartment Association, the Austin Board of Realtors, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Building and Strengthening Tenant Action, and Austin Tenants Council in developing the ordinance.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

It is the City Council's intent that the Civil Rights Office investigate and enforce this renters rights ordinance. The City Manager shall ensure policies and processes for the Housing and Planning Department, the Code Department, the Austin Police Department, and any other relevant department are amended to comply with these rights.

**ADOPTED:** February 3, 2022 **ATTEST:**

  
Myrna Rios  
City Clerk