

RESOLUTION NO. 20220303-061

WHEREAS, in July 2021, Council passed the Safer 6th Street Initiative (Resolution No. 20210729-175) to initiate a series of actions aimed at creating safer conditions in Austin's entertainment district; and

WHEREAS, the Safer 6th Street Initiative directed the City Manager to implement a more comprehensive strategy toward the Historic Sixth Street District (6th Street District) that maximizes its assets, embraces new opportunities, and ensures a safer environment for all; and

WHEREAS, as documented in staff memos from October 5, 2021, and December 27, 2021, (Exhibits A and B), outcomes from the Safer 6th Initiative have included the formation of an interdepartmental team; lighting improvements; joint actions with Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission to curb underage drinking; brainstorming of ways to activate public spaces; consideration of an entertainment license program; and beginning a nightlife management plan; and

WHEREAS, the staff's December 27, 2021, memo (included as Exhibit B) also included recommendations for next steps; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL:

The City Manager is directed to create pilot programs for the installation of seating, dining, and small-scale activations in the right of way on the 200, 500, 600 and 700 blocks of 6th Street to support the goal of adding more diverse uses and amenities and thus expanding the audience of people who recreate in the area. The City Council supports staff's proposed "Pilot Program 1" that includes activations for seating, dining, and other activities during 6th Street closures which occur on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. The City Manager is directed to finalize program criteria, requirements, and the application process and to implement this

program by May 1, 2022; and to bring to Council an ordinance to waive fees associated with this pilot program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council endorses City staff's recommendation that any future redesign or rebuild of 6th Street or the streetscape include dedicated pedestrian lighting solutions. The City Manager is directed to formalize this intent as necessary and to provide feedback by June 1, 2022, as to whether temporary lighting could achieve a similar effect in the interim.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager shall initiate a lighting study to identify gaps in the street light network throughout the 6th Street District with work to be completed before Council embarks on Fiscal Year 2023 budget deliberations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager shall prioritize the work with property owners in the area to encourage them to add temporary or permanent lighting on their properties, especially along alleys.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to prepare the necessary ordinance(s) to create a pilot annual entertainment permit with an accompanying safety plan for places of assembly operating in the 6th Street District with operating hours after 12 a.m.

The Council agrees with staff's recommendation that the annual entertainment permit incorporate the inspections, reviews, and approvals required for the operating permit issued by the Austin Fire Department (AFD) for fire

prevention and the outdoor music venue permit issued by the Development Services Department (DSD) for the use of sound equipment.

The Council supports staff's suggestion that the existing process used for outdoor music venue permits be used for the new entertainment permit and that the Entertainment Services Group coordinate the process and serve as a liaison to permit holders. The City Manager shall present the ordinance(s) to Council as soon as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to continue working with all 6th Street bar owners and stakeholders to encourage written safety plans, training for door staff, increased communication with the Austin Police Department, peer-to-peer communication, and codes of conduct that outline expected standards of behavior for staff and patrons, which includes a plan to prioritize the prevention of underage drinking.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to provide Council with regular written updates on the planning currently underway to create a dedicated Emergency Medical Services presence and staging area on 6th Street that will allow for safer and faster treatment and extrication of individuals needing medical attention. The City Manager shall first report back to Council no later than May 1, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

After the forthcoming Spring Festival events, the City Manager shall communicate to Council any new findings or recommendations with regard to safety and mobility as informed by this year's festival activities. The City Manager shall do the same after subsequent festivals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to explore ways to implement safe gun storage options and policies for evacuees that the City hosts in hotels during times of disaster.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

By May 1, 2022, the City Manager shall provide Council with information about previous City-sponsored gun buyback programs (total costs and number of weapons obtained). The City Manager shall also provide Council with a recommendation as to whether or not the City should establish a new gun buyback program and to provide information about potential funding sources should a new gun buyback program be recommended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

By May 1, 2022, the City Manager shall provide Council with recommendations related to the possibility of installing more HALO (High Activity Location Observation) cameras throughout the 6th Street area. If the Manager recommends installing additional cameras, he shall provide estimated costs and possible funding sources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council desires to take a strong stance against establishments with records of repeated violent incidents taking place among their customers. Within the next 45 days, the City Council requests information about legal options that may be available to the City to address establishments with such records. This information should address existing or proposed regulatory options considered or proposed by other cities, such as Houston.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

To encourage a broader array of uses in the 6th Street area, the City Manager shall propose a pilot program by June 1, 2022, that provides incentives or loans to owners of historic buildings in the 6th Street District who seek to add kitchens. The City Manager shall also recommend possible funding sources for such a program, including whether the 6th Street Public Improvement District (PID) could be a viable funding source for these incentives or loans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

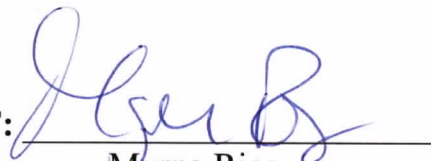
The City Manager shall initiate a new historic survey of the 6th Street District that identifies contributing and non-contributing properties and provides guidance on how non-contributing properties could be redeveloped in a manner that maintains the cohesiveness and integrity of the historic district.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager shall work collaboratively with the Downtown Austin Alliance to mutually contribute and maintain public realm improvements aimed at creating a safer and more family-friendly atmosphere in the 6th Street District, including such strategies as the reconstruction of East 6th Street, installation of decorative planters, public art and programming, the active storefront program, and a pilot program for alley activation and public market on Sabine Street. The City Manager shall report to Council on the progress of this collaboration by June 1, 2022. The City Manager is directed to bring an ordinance to Council to waive fees associated with these activations.

ADOPTED: March 3, 2022

ATTEST:



Myrna Rios
City Clerk