

RESOLUTION NO.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin seeks to utilize new technologies and innovations to improve government processes and better serve Austinites; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin also desires to be a place where new technologies and innovations are created and developed with both public and private uses and applications; and

**WHEREAS**, blockchain technology, a technology to securely store and share information in a digital ledger and which is commonly referred to as the basis for Web3, is being developed around the world with the goal of finding more and further valued applications; and

**WHEREAS**, blockchain technology has been very visibly used for cryptocurrency, but the technology has many other potential uses for both the private and public sector; and

**WHEREAS**, decentralized autonomous organizations (DAO) are the common organizational form for coordinating Web3 activity, although currently there are no agreed-upon standards for the social purposes and practices of DAOs; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin seeks to foster a supporting ecosystem for DAOs and other technology firms that use cooperative and democratic management practices; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, the City of Austin's Office of Innovation received a grant for blockchain technology research and development with a focus on improving services and creating innovative solutions for people experiencing homelessness and, out of this work, delivered and has made public advancements that might well have practical applications; and

**WHEREAS**, blockchain technologies, protocols and their applications, as well as the economic ecosystem of blockchain development in Austin, have advanced since the completion of that grant project; and

**WHEREAS**, hackathons, contests, and prizes may lead to new innovative ideas for the use of blockchain technology; and

25                   **WHEREAS**, cities such as Miami and New York City have begun to partner  
26                   with cryptocurrencies in an effort to generate revenue as well as promote financial  
27                   investment in their cities, and

28           **WHEREAS**, here in Austin, Capital Factory, Stacks, Divine, Women of  
29 Web3, **decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs)**, and many others are  
30 working to expand development of our innovation ecosystems and culture that  
31 could lead to new applications of blockchain technologies; and

32           **WHEREAS**, the city has a fundamental interest in using its standing and  
33 efforts to ensure equity, diversity, accessibility and inclusion in this technology  
34 ecosystem; **and**

**WHEREAS**, blockchain technologies have known power consumption challenges that  
should be researched to determine environmental impact; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin seeks to explore how innovations in public digital money  
infrastructures, such as public banks, public payment platforms, and local  
complementary currencies, can be supported by Web3-related technologies, protocols,  
and applications; and

**NOW, THEREFORE;**

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

36           The City Manager is directed to ensure the City is helping to create an  
37 environment within city government and in the community generally that supports  
38 the creation and development of new technologies, including without limitation  
39 blockchain and other Web3 related technologies, protocols, and applications.

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

41           The City Manager is directed to ensure that city involvement and efforts  
42 serve to promote equity, diversity, accessibility and inclusion in this technology  
43 ecosystem, **including support for organizations and projects that utilize open**  
44 **source, cooperative, democratic, privacy-preserving, nonprofit, and otherwise**  
45 **socially-oriented business practices.**

46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

47           The City Manager is directed to **study the** creation and development of

48 blockchain technologies and financial innovations that could potentially benefit  
Austinites and city

49 government with applications that could include, without limitation, those related  
50 to:

- 51 • data security and retention,
- 52 • smart contracts,
- 53 • document notarization,
- 54 • arts and music,

- cryptocurrencies,
- supply chain management,
- processing of applications and transactions,
- community engagement,
- fundraising,
- social enterprises,
- insurance,
- media,
- computer science,
- medical services,
- asset titles,
- municipal governance and functions,
- identity verification and protection,
- uses of the internet of things (IoT),
- public payments platforms,
- public banks,
- local complementary currencies,
- payment processing, and
- consumer activities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager will prioritize the approval and implementation of blockchain technologies for public use that are either under the City's control or under the control of organizations abiding by cooperative or democratic management practices.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to consider supporting, participating in or organizing the facilitating of the creation and development of blockchain technologies through activities such as, without limitation, hackathons, accelerators, incubators, contests, challenges, and prizes.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

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80 The City Manager is directed to consider promoting and facilitating the  
81 further development of prior City work associated with allowing people  
82 experiencing homelessness to have greater access, control, and use of their  
83 personal health and other records. This would include the technology the City  
84 helped create and develop, and which the City has made openly available, that  
85 verifies documents digitally notarized in Texas for blockchain activities.

86 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

87 The City Manager is directed to engage stakeholders as appropriate in the  
88 assessing of potential uses and new advances for blockchain technology, including  
89 potential risks, such as environmental impacts, and strategies for mitigating those  
90 risks and impacts.

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94 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **2022 ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
95 Myrna Rios  
96 City Clerk  
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