

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, 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

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

28 **WHEREAS**, here in Austin, Capital Factory, Stacks, DivInc, 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; **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 support the creation and development of
48 blockchain technologies and financial innovations and study which innovations
49 could ~~that~~ benefit Austinites and city government with applications that could
50 include, without limitation, those related 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 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:

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

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

ADOPTED: _____, 2022 **ATTEST:** _____
Myrna Rios
City Clerk