

**RESOLUTION NO. 20220324-057**

**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**, Web3 is being developed around the world as a successor to Web2 with the goal of providing greater capabilities, security, usability, and reliability through reduction of single points of failure; 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**, here in Austin, Capital Factory, Stacks, DivInc, Women of Web3, decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs), and many others are working to expand development of our innovation ecosystems and culture that could lead to new applications of blockchain technologies; and

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

**WHEREAS**, Council considers it very important to review the research and recommendations from ratings agencies, financial regulators, oversight organizations, and professional associations on the use of cryptocurrency technology or blockchain by municipal government; **NOW, THEREFORE;**

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

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

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to ensure that the implementation of this resolution does not preclude nor deprioritize investments in basic digital services and technology needs that support the City's core functions.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

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

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to support the creation and development of blockchain technologies and financial innovations and study which innovations could benefit Austinites and city government with applications that could include, without limitation, those related to:

- data security and retention,
- smart contracts,
- document notarization,
- arts and music,
- 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:**

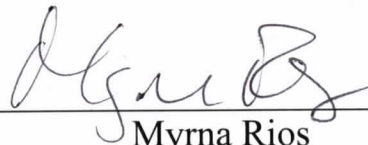
The City Manager is directed to engage stakeholders as appropriate in the assessing of potential uses and new advances for blockchain technology, including potential risks, such as environmental impacts, and strategies for mitigating those risks and impacts.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to include in his review the research and recommendations from ratings agencies, financial regulators, oversight organizations, and professional associations on the use of cryptocurrency technology or blockchain by municipal government.

**ADOPTED:** March 24, 2022

**ATTEST:**



Myrna Rios  
City Clerk