

WHEREAS, residents of Austin who live east of IH-35 have limited opportunity to engage with programming on Lady Bird Lake that promotes physical and mental wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Rowing Club has been operating the Waller Creek Boathouse since the City completed construction in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Rowing Club is an integral part of the Austin community, providing rowing operations to all ages and demographics as well as a vibrant community space with a broad range of amenities and services to more than 100,000 visitors a year; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Rowing Club currently works with more than 40 community partners, including such partners as the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area, Parks and Recreation Department recreation centers and summer camps, the regional Veterans Administration, and Team Survivor; and

WHEREAS, including the Austin Rowing Club, seven organizations operate from the Waller Creek Boathouse, representing more than 100 full and part time employees who rely on the income they receive from these organizations; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, voters approved an estimated \$7.1 billion transit plan called Project Connect, and the newly formed local government corporation “Austin Transit Partnership” is leading the design, engineering, and construction of Project Connect; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the plans for Project Connect call for a river crossing along the
26 alignment of Trinity Street and an underground tunnel beginning on the north side
27 of Lady Bird Lake; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the construction of the river crossing and tunnel entrance is
29 expected to require the demolition of the Waller Creek Boathouse, thereby
30 displacing the Austin Rowing Club and the other organizations housed there; and

31 **WHEREAS**, the construction of a new boathouse on the former youth
32 hostel site at 2200 South Lakeshore Boulevard would allow the Austin Rowing
33 Club to continue enriching the lives of Austinites, particularly those who have
34 historically lacked equal access to recreational activities; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

36 Council directs the City Manager to coordinate with the Austin Rowing Club
37 with the goal of continuing and extending the Club's concession agreement with
38 the City beyond the demolition of the current Waller Creek Boathouse.

39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

40 Council directs the City Manager to coordinate with the Austin Rowing Club
41 and other appropriate organizations that currently utilize the Waller Creek
42 Boathouse to relocate these entities and extend any concession agreements they
43 may have, so they are able to operate without closure, to the extent feasible, to a
44 site such as the former youth hostel site owned by the City.

45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

46 Council directs the City Manager to provide Council a financing plan, which
47 may include funding from the Austin Transit Partnership (Project Connect) for the

condemnation of the Waller Creek Boathouse property but which should not include City funds, toward the design, engineering, and construction of the youth hostel boathouse along with the necessary docks, infrastructure, and other amenities that are needed for the operation of the Austin Rowing Club and the other entities that have concession agreements for use of the Waller Creek Boathouse and related facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Council authorizes the City Manager to negotiate and execute any other related agreements, such as parkland improvement agreements, that may be necessary to effectuate the transition of the Austin Rowing Club and the other organizations to the youth hostel site.

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