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25 **WHEREAS**, victims of extreme homelessness are sometimes targeted,
26 trafficked, and forced into survival sex in order not to be robbed, violently
27 assaulted, or killed; and

28 **WHEREAS**, traffickers exploit approximately \$600 million per year from
29 victims of labor trafficking in Texas in the most at-risk industries and economic
30 sectors, including migrant farm workers, construction workers, kitchen workers in
31 restaurants, and landscaping service workers; and

32 **WHEREAS**, sex trafficking is a subcategory of commercial sexual
33 exploitation, in which an individual uses different methods to control another
34 individual to force or coerce them into providing sexual services for commercial
35 gain; and

36 **WHEREAS**, victims of trafficking can be adults and minors; and

37 **WHEREAS**, there are many types of trafficking that can occur including
38 sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, forced criminality, organ harvesting, and
39 domestic servitude; and

40 **WHEREAS**, suicide rates among youth, ideation, and behavior, are much
41 higher among those who have experienced a form of trafficking; and

42 **WHEREAS**, according to The University of Texas at Austin School of
43 Social Work, researchers found that there are an estimated 313,000 victims of
44 human trafficking in Texas, approximately 79,000 minors and youths are victims
45 of sex trafficking and approximately 234,000 workers in Texas who are victims of
46 labor trafficking; and

47 **WHEREAS**, Texas ranks second only to California in the number of human
48 trafficking arrests; and

49 **WHEREAS**, these types of trafficking are a violation of fundamental human
50 rights; and

51 **WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2015, Council passed Resolution No. 20151015-
52 033, stating that (1) the City recognizes human trafficking is a human rights
53 concern impacting Austin residents, businesses, and communities; (2) the City
54 declares that freedom from human trafficking is a fundamental human right; and
55 (3) the City promotes these principles and values through its policies, and
56 continues to secure this human right on behalf of its residents; and

57 **WHEREAS**, the City is committed to ensuring there is transparency in our
58 own business and in our approach to tackling human trafficking through our
59 procurement and Request For Proposal process; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

61 The City Council supports the fight to end human trafficking and condemns
62 the ongoing exploitation and profit from human trafficking.

63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

64 The City Council directs the City Manager to provide appropriate resources
65 to vendors who do business with the City and encourage training to ensure vendors
66 have the skills to recognize indicators of individuals experiencing homelessness at
67 risk of human trafficking.

68 This should include, but not be limited to:

- 69 • Providing educational materials describing indicators of human
70 exploitation and trafficking to be displayed by non-profits or vendors
71 that enter contracts with the City related to homelessness or housing.

- Providing appropriate resources to ensure vendors who enter into contracts with the City have the skills to safely report suspicious activity to the right authorities, including those from agencies such as the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.
- Supporting victims of human trafficking through referrals to available support services.
- Displaying educational materials describing indicators of human exploitation and trafficking in permanent supportive housing, bridge shelters, or overnight shelters owned or operated in the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

The City hereby encourages the Texas legislature and broader community to support enabling legislation to end human trafficking and directs the City Manager to amend the City's State and Federal Legislative Agendas to support legislation to end human trafficking, including efforts to prevent and recognize human trafficking and to provide support for victims of human trafficking.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to send copies of this resolution to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, the Austin state and federal delegations, and to the President of the United States.

ADOPTED: _____, 2022

ATTEST: _____

Myrna Rios
City Clerk