



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council Members

**THROUGH:** Jason Alexander, Chief of Staff

**FROM:** Laura Patiño, Chief Resilience Officer *LP*

**DATE:** January 17, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Community Resilience Planning (Resolution No. 20200507-022)

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This memo provides response on [Resolution No. 20200507-022](#), which directed the City Manager to staff a resilience office, create a framework for comprehensive community resilience, and implement a strategy that embeds equity principles and is in alignment with internal departments and external partners. Within the resolution, eight directives are outlined which have been or are currently being addressed. While we provide concluding updates on two of these, the remaining directives are underway and will be addressed as part of the development of the City's comprehensive resilience strategy.

### **Directive Overview:**

#### **Item 1 – Chief Resilience Officer & Staff Support**

##### **Status: Completed**

On April 25, 2022, the City onboarded the new Chief Resilience Officer, Laura Patiño, who is the point of focus within the City for implementation of a comprehensive community resilience strategy. [Link](#)

Support to the office is being provided by the Office of Sustainability, with a position on loan for Fiscal Year 2023. Two other temporary positions, which have been developed in partnership and co-funded with the University of Texas and FUSE Corps have been added to the team. These positions support the Office of Resilience in specific projects and scopes of work determined through contracts approved by Council. Future office staffing, resources, and budgetary needs will be evaluated in the development of the resilience strategy.

#### **Item 2 – Equity**

##### **Status: Completed**

Equity is at the center of the resilience planning and strategy development process. With support of the Resilience Hubs Community Task Force, we have launched equity guiding principles for all resilience work. The following principles will be considered in the development of the resilience strategy and continuously revisited.

- *Acknowledging systems and history of inequity.* Are we considering the impacts of systemic racism in our work?
- *Centering community voices and community narratives.* Are we prioritizing low-income, communities of color, previously incarcerated people, LGBTQIA+, women and children, and those living with disabilities, in our resilience work?
- *Cultivating trust.* Are we fostering democratic participation and equity through community-driven decision-making? Are staff building relationships with those most disenfranchised?
- *People power.* Are we centering the leadership and expertise of those most impacted by shocks and stressors? Are leadership opportunities being nurtured with low-income, communities of color, those living with disabilities, LGBTQIA+, women and children?
- *Accountability and transparency.* Are staff bridging the divide between community and governance? Is our work open to critique?

There are six other directives within the Council Resolution. These are: Item 3 – Indicators; Item 4 – Pilot programs; Item 5 – Interdepartmental Collaboration; Item 6 - Interagency and Community Coordination; Item 7 – Resilient Cities Network; and Item 8 - Private Sector Coordination & Fundraising.

Due to the ongoing nature of the resilience efforts, Items 3-8 will be integrated in the development of the comprehensive resilience strategy and will be reflected within the overarching resilience framework, scheduled to kick-off in January 2023.

As a result, we consider this final memo to be responsive to [Resolution No. 20200507-022](#), as a thoughtful office structure and process have been set in place to deliver each of the directives outlined above. Future updates on the progress of the comprehensive resilience strategy process will be delivered to City Council following the Office's community engagement plan.

Additional information on the partnerships, timeline, community engagement plan, and next steps will be announced to the community and Council in early 2023. In parallel, we are working alongside the Communications and Public Information Office (CPIO) to develop a website as a platform to share information on all resilience programs. The website is expected to be active by the end of January 2023 and will be addressed as [www.austintexas.gov/resilience](http://www.austintexas.gov/resilience).

If you have questions, please contact me at [laura.patino@austintexas.gov](mailto:laura.patino@austintexas.gov).

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager