

## **RESOLUTION NO.**

**WHEREAS**, the Downtown Austin Plan was adopted December 8, 2011 and states as a goal that downtown will have a dense and livable pattern of development that supports a vibrant daytime and nighttime environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Imagine Austin plan identifies activity centers with vibrant night-time economies; and

**WHEREAS**, Austin's self-proclaimed brand as the Live Music Capital of the World represents not only a cultural badge but also a significant economic driver; and

**WHEREAS**, ensuring safe environments are vital to the entire city; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2009 a Hospitality Zone Assessment was conducted by the Responsible Hospitality Institute and identified challenges to ensuring a safe and vibrant hospitality zone; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2013, in conjunction with the Downtown Austin Alliance, Old Pecan Street Association and SXSW, the City of Austin Music & Entertainment Division conducted a three-day workshop led by the world's foremost crowd expert, Professor Keith Still, to discuss crowd management & flow, programmed entertainment, lighting and policing tactics; and

**WHEREAS**, East 6<sup>th</sup> Street attracts thousands of patrons on any given weekend and can reach into hundreds of thousands during festival weekends; and

**WHEREAS**, large crowds, fueled by alcohol, pose significant health, public safety and transportation issues; and

**WHEREAS**, overcrowding resulting in violations of occupancy limits and also poses significant health and public safety issues; and

**WHEREAS**, updated emergency management plans are integral to a best managed city; and

**WHEREAS**, East 6<sup>th</sup> Street is part of the East 6th Street National Register Historic District (NRHD), and most of this district is subject to a 45-foot height limit established by City Code as the Pecan Street Overlay District; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin values maintaining the historic character of our city by offering property tax exemptions for historically designated structures, some of which are downtown; and

**WHEREAS**, many historic buildings have been repurposed and are used for businesses involved in our night-time economy; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to engage relevant stakeholders and City departments to ensure the City of Austin is creating a safe and vibrant environment in downtown entertainment districts, to examine issues as further described below related to the Downtown Entertainment Districts, and to bring a report back with recommendations for any necessary City Code changes that would address the issues that the City Manager identifies.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

In complying with this resolution, the City Manager should consider issues and possible solutions that address:

- the creation of an entertainment license which includes sound, safety and security provisions.

- the determination of the cost and providing of a time line for improved street lighting.
- the activation of closed streets on weekends with performance artists and mobile food vendors.
- opening city garages for public night-time use.
- examining the revocation of historic property tax exemptions for structures whose tenants have received multiple code violations related to capacity loading, fire safety and underage drinking.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2014

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk