

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, schools and families play a critical role maintaining strong communities, directly impacting a broad range of issues from jobs and the local economy to the environment, civic engagement and our future as a city; and

WHEREAS, families and children are a protected class under the Fair Housing Act; and

WHEREAS, Imagine Austin, the city's comprehensive planning document, specifically recognizes the need for strong public schools and family-friendly development citywide, topics that have often lacked clear focus in the past; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittees of the City of Austin, Austin Independent School District (AISD), and Travis County have already identified student stability as a key area of collaborative focus, and in 2013 created the School and Family Work Group to “generate policy recommendations aimed at supporting neighborhood schools and retaining families with children in the central city”; and

WHEREAS, the Work Group released its final report, “Retaining Families and Strengthening Schools in Central Austin” in January 2014, with the specific notation that, while its charge was limited to Central Austin, many of its

recommendations could be beneficially applied throughout the city and county;
and

WHEREAS, the report identifies a number of specific policy actions for the City of Austin, AISD, Travis County Commissioners Court, and other entities such as the University of Texas and non-governmental bodies, all designed with the critical public goal of keeping our city healthy, wealthy and wise; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to report back to the Council by October 15 2014 with a timeline for the implementation of strategies to promote the development of family-friendly housing in the City based on recommendations made by the School and Family Work Group of the Joint Subcommittees of the Austin City Council, AISD Board of Trustees, and Travis County Commissioners' Court:

1. **Use CodeNEXT Project to Promote Affordable Family-Friendly Housing.** The City of Austin should identify and adopt land use policies through the current revision of the City's Land Development Code to promote a diverse range of affordable, family-friendly housing across Austin, especially in the urban core, and provide

examples of what policy changes can be considered and implemented.

2. **Create ‘Homes & Schools Temporary Rental Assistance Program’ to Increase Student Stability.** The City of Austin should create a “Homes and Schools Temporary Rental Assistance Program” similar to rental assistance programs developed under American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to target housing counseling resources and emergency rental housing assistance funding to low-income families with children in neighborhoods with high rates of student mobility in public schools.
3. **Develop Long-Range Affordable Housing Plan and Expand Housing Planning Effort.** The City of Austin should develop a twenty-year vision statement and plan for closing the affordable housing gap in Austin, specifically including families with children. The plan should identify school attendance zones with declining enrollments and seek to target programs to create more family-sized housing in those zones as appropriate.
4. **Explore Partnerships for Family-Friendly Developments.** The City of Austin should create and help fund a model affordable family-friendly development in a densely populated urban area. In

addition, the City of Austin and AISD should explore opportunities to partner in creating affordable family-friendly housing on surplus or underutilized government property at or near AISD schools in under-enrolled attendance zones, in areas suffering from high rates of student mobility, or areas of high opportunity according to Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs scoring criteria.

5. **Enhance Safe Routes to Schools, Parks and Libraries.** By 2015, the City of Austin should adopt a citywide plan to provide safe pedestrian and cycling routes to schools, parks, and libraries, in coordination with AISD, other school districts, and Travis County, and target funding for the plan in the next transportation bond package.

ADOPTED: _____

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk