

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin’s Economic Development Department has cited its focus on future development in logistics, distribution, technology manufacturing, food and creative sectors, as well as opportunities for hard to employ, those in poverty and working-poor; and

WHEREAS, it is a priority of the *Imagine Austin* comprehensive plan to invest in workforce, education systems, entrepreneurs, and local businesses; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the City of Austin’s Economic Development Department issued its report on *The Economic Impact of Austin’s Food Sector*, it found that “in spite of Austin’s bounty, issues related to hunger and food access remain;” and

WHEREAS, also in *The Economic Impact of Austin’s Food Sector* report, it was recommended that the food sector should be identified as a source of economic growth and development; and

WHEREAS, support for economic development programs in low-income regions of Austin could both improve food access and create jobs for low-income residents; and

WHEREAS, Travis County U.S. Census Tract 48453002431 is a region bordered by both low-income residential areas and low food access; and

WHEREAS, Travis County U.S. Census Tract 48453002431 is within a region designated as a “job center” in the *Imagine Austin* comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, this region’s proximity to roadways adds value to its potential as a food hub and food distribution area; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

Directs the City Manager to work with the City of Austin’s Economic Development Department to designate Travis County U.S. Census Tract 48453002431 as a *City of Austin Economic Development Zone* to encourage business growth in that region that addresses both food access and job development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this designation is for a specific time period not to exceed 24 months, so that a review of outcomes can be reported back to the Austin City Council.

ADOPTED: _____, 2014

ATTEST: _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk