

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, the City has a long history of supporting locally-owned independent businesses, and recognizes their cultural and economic importance to our community; and

WHEREAS, locally-owned businesses often buy their goods and services from other locally-owned businesses, reinvesting our dollars locally and stimulating economic growth by working with one another; and

WHEREAS, the City has been a long-standing partner with the Austin Independent Business Alliance (AIBA) in supporting local businesses through the Independent Business Investment Zone District program, which includes eight neighborhood districts representing more than 425 locally-owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin comprehensive plan prioritizes the implementation of policies that create, nurture, and retain small and local businesses, and minority- and women-owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, one of the goals of the Imagine Austin Priority Programs is to continue to grow Austin's economy by investing in our workforce, education systems, entrepreneurs, and local businesses;

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20120405-047 directed the City Manager to convene an annual local business conference to address ongoing issues and concerns for local businesses in Austin; and

WHEREAS, in order to fulfill this mission, the City has partnered with the Local Economies Council in hosting the Local Business Conference, which works with the AIBA to produce a year-long collaborative process that identifies problems and develops solutions through open discussions and collaboration

among local business owners in order to make Austin a more thriving community for locally owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, continuation of the Local Business Conference was identified as an unmet need during the fiscal year 2015-2016 budget process and continues to be a priority for the City in fostering and supporting the success of locally-owned businesses; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to negotiate a multi-year contract with the Local Economies Council to continue the City's partnership in hosting the annual Local Business Conference.

The scope of work should include engagement of local organizations and chambers of commerce that work to further the success of locally-owned businesses, including but not limited to:

- Austin Independent Business Alliance;
- Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce;
- Austin Young Chamber;
- Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce;
- Austin Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce;
- Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce;
- Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce;
- BiGAUSTIN;
- Accion;
- PeopleFund; and
- Business and Community Leaders of Texas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to bring the negotiated contract and proposed funding options back to Council for approval as soon as practical.

ADOPTED: _____, 2016

ATTEST: _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

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