

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, Chapter 5-1 of the City Code recognizes and affirms the inalienable rights of each individual to obtain housing without regard to student status and that the denial of such rights through considerations based on student status is detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the City and constitutes an unjust denial or deprivation of such inalienable rights which is within the power and the proper responsibility of the government to prevent; and

WHEREAS, many students who reside in the City of Austin do not have the necessary credit to sign leases on their own so landlords may require a co-signor or a “guarantor;” and

WHEREAS, these individuals are typically the student’s parent or family member; however, if a student’s parent or family member has poor credit or lacks other qualifications as a guarantor, it can be difficult for students to find rental properties that will accept their rental application; and

WHEREAS, many students count financial aid as their primary source of income and are hopeful that this could be a viable alternative to having a co-signor on their lease; **NOW, THEREFORE:**

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

The City Manager is directed to explore whether viable options exist to assist a student with guaranteeing a lease and whether there are viable alternatives to requiring a guarantor for a lease. The City Manager is directed to return to Council with a report on her work by January 19, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to work with the higher education institutions within the City of Austin to create a tenants' rights education and awareness campaign for students. This education campaign should include materials relating to the tenants' rights, students' rights as a protected class under the City's Fair Housing laws, and information about the Equal Employment and Fair Housing Office. The City Manager is directed to present her work to the Student Commission, once the Commission has been formalized.

ADOPTED: _____, 2017

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk