

RESOLUTION NO. 20171207-059

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20120112-067 directed the City Manager to draft an aquatic facilities comprehensive master plan with the participation of neighborhood and civic groups and other interested stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department, which oversaw the extensive process, released a final draft of the Aquatic Master Plan on July 27, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20170817-052 led to the creation of a Task Force on the Aquatic Master Plan to solicit additional public feedback from diverse communities prior to Council's formal approval of the plan; and

WHEREAS, the plan cites a history of mechanical and structural problems at many of the city's 51 aquatic facilities and notes a significant lack of technology to operate pools more efficiently; and

WHEREAS, inaccurate water testing readings can often result in the sudden evacuation of swimmers and temporary pool closures to allow time for a mechanic to drive to the pool to make necessary adjustments; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department's team of mechanics perform on-site testing to assess water and pH levels at pools each day, and conduct more extensive tests each week; and

WHEREAS, each pool is equipped with a chemical controller, but the controllers do not allow remote access for off-site staff to make immediate water chemistry adjustments; and

WHEREAS, remote testing technology provides continuous and timely chemical readings and the ability to adjust readings without a mechanic at the pool, and increases the enjoyment and health and safety of swimmers; and

WHEREAS, remote testing technology, can monitor and control water chemistry over the internet; and

WHEREAS, during the summer of 2017, the department successfully used a remote controller on a trial basis at no cost at Springwoods Pool, which resulted in decreased pool closures and reduced vehicle trips for mechanics; and

WHEREAS, such technology is used to enhance pool operator's ability to properly maintain pool facilities nationally and would similarly benefit Austin's aquatic facilities and reduce the number of pool closures and staff time spent in traffic traveling from one geographic region of the city to another; and

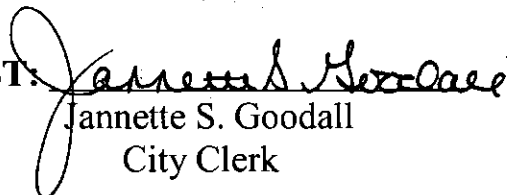
WHEREAS, a one-time investment of \$300,000 for equipment and installation costs at approximately 47 pools, and an annual fee of \$9,400 for data and internet usage, would provide long-term value for the city as well as for more than one million Austinites and visitors who enjoy and rely on swimming pools for exercising and cooling off during hot weather; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to review the costs, benefits, and types of remote testing technology, and return to Council with an analysis before potentially initiating the process of purchasing remote testing controllers and possible budget adjustments.

ADOPTED: December 7, 2017

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk