

RESOLUTION NO. 20181101-025

WHEREAS, acquired by the City of Austin in 1965, Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park is a regional park located in east Austin, situated just west of State Highway 130, consisting of 3,695 acres of parkland, including the 1,165 acre Lake Walter E. Long, approximately 765 acres of preserved habitats, and the Travis County Exposition Center grounds; and

WHEREAS, after receiving voter approval, the City entered into a fifty-year lease agreement with Travis County in 1983, regarding a 128-acre portion of this land, and the Travis County Exposition Center was built on this parcel; and

WHEREAS, the lease agreement with Travis County on the Exposition Center will expire in December 2033; and

WHEREAS, the City receives no ad valorem taxes from this 128-acre parcel, and no revenue from the lease of the property; and

WHEREAS, there has been discussion about the need to improve or rebuild the current structures because of concerns about public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, while the City does not currently incur expenses related to the operation and maintenance of this property, the City could bear responsibility for such expenses in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Exposition Center has been home to Rodeo Austin, formerly known as the Star of Texas Fair & Rodeo, since its construction in 1984, and Rodeo Austin occupies the property for six weeks every year; and

WHEREAS, Rodeo Austin has indicated an interest in a public-private partnership with Travis County for the purpose of creating a venue in the Eastern Crescent that would produce revenue and provide employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the execution of this partnership and the contemplated improvements could be simplified if management of the site rested with Travis County rather than the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, the Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park and the Johnny Trevino District Park are currently undergoing the master planning process and the Exposition Center could have revenue designated specifically to the Parks and Recreation Department to activate their master plans; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to develop and present options to Council that would allow for the redevelopment, renovation, and activation of the Exposition Center and the surrounding 128-acre site.

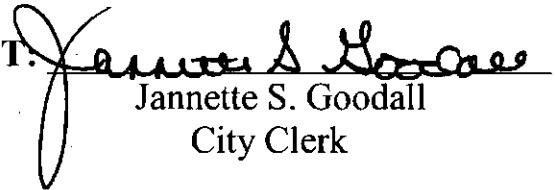
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

These options shall be presented to Council within six months from the date of this resolution so that in the case the Council selects an option requiring voter approval, it can

be presented to Austin voters at the next available uniform election date, pursuant to Chapter 253 of the Texas Local Government Code.

ADOPTED: November 1, 2018

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk