

RESOLUTION NO.

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WHEREAS, homelessness is identified as a strategic outcome indicator in “Austin Strategic Direction 2023” and was identified by the City Council as the top priority for the city’s Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the “Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint” Key Actions include “Investing in Housing for Those Most in Need,” which calls for Austin to adopt a balanced approach to provide affordable housing resources for low-income workers, seniors, people with disabilities and the thousands of people experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Austin’s Action Plan to End Homelessness (“Action Plan”) states that outreach, shelter and transitional housing are the critical front line of our community’s efforts to ending homelessness, helping people meet basic survival needs while helping connect them to housing resources and other services; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2018 Point-in-Time Count the number of persons experiencing homelessness rose 5% from 2017 to 2018, while the number of persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness rose 21.6% from 2017 to 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Action Plan recognizes that there are not enough emergency shelter beds available to people who need them, resulting in people being turned away or not even attempting to ask for a bed in shelters; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 20170810-033 directed the City Manager to assess
21 City-owned buildings and identify at least five possibilities for one or more temporary,
22 short-term emergency shelters and to provide the Council with cost estimates for operation
23 and maintenance; and

24 **WHEREAS**, an increasing number of Austin residents living unsheltered,
25 experiencing exposure, malnutrition, and unhygienic conditions increases the likelihood
26 of victimization, poor physical and mental health, and public health consequences; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the National Alliance to End Homelessness views shelter as a key
28 component to our homeless response system; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the Action Plan proposes more shelters and day services, providing
30 safe places for people to be during the day as well as overnight allowing consistent contact
31 with service providers and the ability to more quickly move to stable housing; and

32 **WHEREAS**, the Action Plan recognizes that clients receiving shelter services must
33 have access to affordable, low-barrier housing in order to end their homelessness; **NOW**,

34 **THEREFORE**,

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

36 The City Council directs the City Manager to take steps necessary to inform and
37 prepare for the implementation of the Report described below. Such steps shall include
38 preparing to purchase or lease and make ready a fabric membrane structure or other
39 building structure, including an existing structure, which is appropriate for, and dedicated

40 to piloting immediate shelter and support services for those experiencing homelessness
41 with the intent of providing a pathway to permanent housing. The structure will be placed
42 or located on property owned by the City or property owned by an entity partnering with
43 the City, but not directly adjacent to existing residential neighborhoods. An exception to
44 this restriction would be allowed if the adjacent neighborhood approved of the use.

45 The City Council further directs the City Manager to make the structure and services
46 available for use on or before September 30, 2019, after completion of the Report and only
47 after any necessary spending authorization by Council on May 23, 2019.

48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

49 The City Council directs the City Manager to provide it a Report on or before May
50 2, 2019, about the best options for piloting immediate shelter and support services for
51 those experiencing homelessness with the intent of providing a pathway to permanent
52 housing. The Report shall identify the partners and City departments which will
53 collaborate to implement the delivery of shelter and support services; the scope, type, and
54 parameters of services; costs associated with such shelter and support services; and
55 opportunities for private and philanthropic partners to contribute to such costs (hereinafter
56 referred to as “Report”). The Report will also identify the target population, the referral
57 process, the support services, the particular safety needs of and services for women and
58 women accompanied by children, enrollment in housing programs, a process and metrics
59 for measuring success, and the costs associated with this shelter to housing concept.

60 The City Council further directs the City Manager to develop the Report on the pilot
61 in collaboration with agencies and City departments currently serving individuals
62 experiencing homelessness and funding homelessness programs in Austin. This
63 collaboration will include discussions with the National Alliance to End Homelessness
64 about best practices for shelter operations and standards and shelter as a key component
65 to our homeless response system. These discussions will address how people are
66 identified to stay in the shelter and how they are to be connected to support services and
67 housing programs.

68 Additionally, the City Council directs the City Manager to place any contracts or
69 spending documents or other options for spending that require City Council approval and
70 are necessary for implementation on the May 23, 2019, City Council Meeting Agenda.

71 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

72 The City Council directs the City Manager to complete the steps described in this
73 resolution according to the following timeline:

- 74 • submit the Report to City Council on or before May 2, 2019;
- 75 • place any contracts or spending documents or other options for spending which are
76 necessary for implementation and require Council approval on the May 23, 2019
77 Council Agenda;
- 78 • make the structure and services available for use on or before September 30, 2019;
- 79 and

80 • expedite the contracting for and procurement of services to meet the September 30
81 deadline.

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84 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2019

ATTEST: _____

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Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

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DRAFT