

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

2

3 **WHEREAS**, Priority Program 3 of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan is to  
4 continue to grow the City of Austin’s economy by investing in our workforce, education  
5 systems, entrepreneurs, and local businesses; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in 2017, Workforce Solutions Capital Area Workforce Board (WFS),  
7 under the direction of the City of Austin and Travis County, officially launched the Master  
8 Community Workforce Plan (Master Plan) effort, aiming to keep Austin affordable by  
9 moving people out of poverty and into family-supporting, career middle-skill jobs; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Austin City Council adopted the Master Community Workforce  
11 Plan as an element of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan in 2018; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the Austin City Council adopted Strategic Direction 2023, which  
13 included Economic Opportunity and Affordability as one of six strategic outcomes with  
14 indicators related to the Master Plan; and

15 **WHEREAS**, WFS is the City’s only designated intergovernmental partner  
16 providing required and critical job seeker supports through subsidized child care, youth  
17 services, job matching, and career training services; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in July 2019, WFS is expanding capacity for its flagship North Career  
19 Center. The new facility will serve as the largest, most comprehensive job center in  
20 operation in Austin/Travis County; and

21

22       **WHEREAS**, benefits of the new flagship facility include:

- 23           • Located in the Austin Eastern Crescent to align with customer need (just
- 24           south of East Rundberg Lane and Interstate Highway 35);
- 25           • Increased career center space to serve job seekers and employers; and
- 26           • Expanded customer access to workforce-related services and staff: job
- 27           counseling and matching, job training, job seeker workshops, subsidized
- 28           child care, employer job fairs, veterans' services, disability employment
- 29           services, and community-based programs; and

30       **WHEREAS**, current federal and state contracting rules require WFS to fund facility  
31 expansion from current client services contracts or from external sources. To date, WFS  
32 has cut fiscal year 2019 contracts by 20%, resulting in reduced client services, in order to  
33 meet facility expansion budget needs; and

34       **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin annually invests millions of dollars in workforce  
35 development and job training services with various local providers; and

36       **WHEREAS**, WFS is uniquely positioned to leverage local funding with matching  
37 federal child care funds, and has been doing so with the City of Austin and Travis County  
38 for more than 10 years to bring more total funding to our community to help working poor  
39 families with child care; and

40       **WHEREAS**, WFS has identified and built a proof-of-concept for matching federal  
41 funds for every non-federal dollar spent on qualifying workforce activities for

42 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-eligible individuals. WFS is the only  
43 workforce board in Texas approved to receive this match (called Third Party  
44 Reimbursement) from the Texas Workforce Commission; and

45 **WHEREAS**, WFS believes that there are unmatched funds that could be brought  
46 to our community with no additional investment from local government. The potential is  
47 \$.50 for every \$1.00 spent, and the proof-of-concept has already matched over \$100,000  
48 with minimal effort or promotion. Funds return to our community as unrestricted; **NOW**,  
49 **THEREFORE**,

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

51 The City Council directs the City Manager to recommend options for partnering  
52 with WFS to meet shared goals regarding facilities, funding, and level and location of  
53 services. Options considered should include, without limitation, options that:

- 54 - Assist WFS facilities expansion needs in the short-term, without necessitating  
55 further possible cuts to client services in the current fiscal year. Options should  
56 include those that are revenue-neutral to the City, including, but not limited to the  
57 City providing a no-interest loan to WFS.
- 58 - Explore long-term partnerships with WFS on facilities and service delivery  
59 opportunities throughout the City in areas of high need.

60 - Explore opportunities to leverage City investments in workforce development and  
61 job training services with additional funding from state, federal, and private sources  
62 to achieve improved Strategic Outcomes and the goals of the Master Plan.

63

64

65 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2019

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk

66

67

DRAFT