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

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.

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65 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2019

ATTEST: _____

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Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

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DRAFT