

**RESOLUTION NO. 20190411-026**

**WHEREAS**, at 4613 Tannehill Lane the Salvation Army constructed the Rathgeber Center family shelter in response to growing shelter waitlists for families with children; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rathgeber Center, a shelter facility designed to serve a total capacity of 212 persons at any time, will soon be ready for occupancy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rathgeber Center will provide emergency shelter, case management, housing navigation, employment services, therapy, childcare, clothing, basic needs and life skills classes; and

**WHEREAS**, the facility will contain private bathrooms, community rooms, a full-service kitchen, computer learning lab, laundry facilities, comprehensive on-site resources, and outdoor play areas for children; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rathgeber Center will provide Housing First rapid rehousing services, as well as extended stay shelter for individuals with longer-term barriers who require additional time and space for successful permanent housing attainment; and

**WHEREAS**, while at 100% capacity the Rathgeber Center could serve 206 unduplicated families annually, the Salvation Army does not have the full funding it would need to operate the shelter at full capacity and intends out of necessity to implement a phased approach; and

**WHEREAS**, while private fundraising efforts are well underway, there is an anticipated funding gap for both the rapid rehousing and extended stay shelter programs to be 100% operational; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, the Point in Time Count revealed that there were 181 households comprised of families with children (587 persons) who were experiencing homelessness in Austin, and likely this number has increased in the intervening years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Downtown emergency shelters currently operate at or above capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Action Plan for Ending Homelessness, Resolutions No. 20161013-008 and 20170810-033, recommendations from the National Alliance to End Homelessness regarding the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH) redesign, and other planning and strategy documents have all identified the need for additional emergency shelter; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 20190131-078 directed the City Manager to, among other things, provide a report about best options for piloting immediate shelter and support services for those experiencing homelessness with the intent of providing a pathway to permanent housing; and

**WHEREAS**, when the Rathgeber Center is fully operational, it will provide a dramatic increase in shelter space for families with children; and

**WHEREAS**, the ARCH redesign of services will provide all clients who sleep at the ARCH with case management services to ensure their timely exit into permanent housing, however, this will reduce the amount of available case management services at the ARCH; and

**WHEREAS**, with additional funding the Salvation Army's Downtown shelter would be able to expand case management, resulting in more efficient and effective housing-focused outcomes for clients; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council has identified homelessness as a top strategic priority; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to Council Resolutions No. 20170831-103 and 20180614-066, the City Manager has explored some potential options for increasing funding to address homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, as the City continues to make investments to address homelessness, we must also ensure that our current shelter facilities are fully funded and operational and that they include the services to help families and individuals transition into permanent housing; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

City Council directs the City Manager to identify potential sources of funding that would assist the Salvation Army Rathgeber Center in becoming fully operational.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Council further directs the City Manager to identify additional funding that could provide case management services for clients at the Salvation Army's Downtown shelter.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Council further directs the City Manager to return to Council with the City Manager's findings no later than June 1, 2019.

**ADOPTED:** April 11, 2019

**ATTEST:** Jannette S. Goodall  
Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk