Council Member Tovo

Item #184 - Approve a resolution directing the City Manager to assess opportunities and make recommendations for immediate and short-term actions to engage and assist individuals experiencing homelessness.

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WHEREAS, the focus and priority on homelessness by the Council, Community, and City staff has resulted in the City currently engaging in a large number of initiatives to address the varied individual and social impacts of homelessness; and

WHEREAS,-funding in the amount of \$500,000 for capital renovations at the ARCH facility was added to the Building Services Department (BSD) Capital Budget as a budget amendment on October 3, 2013, for the FY 2014 Budget. Certain renovations have been completed, such as galvanized wall panel installation and outdoor flooring, and \$199,509 remains for other renovations of the facility; and

WHEREAS, the City is in the process of hiring its first Homeless Strategy Officer and establishing an office dedicated to the interdepartmental coordination of responses; and

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- Provide possible options for safe storage lockers, including climate-controlled storage lockers, across the city for people experiencing homelessness;
- Analyze the ARCH's first-floor space adjacent to the alley for storage use or low-barrier public space, and deploy the previously allocated funds for this expenditure as quickly as possible. To achieve the space's full potential, the few parking spaces currently there should be removed. Should any parking needs remain, proximal city-owned parking, such as the Austin Water parking garage, should be made available;