

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

2 **WHEREAS**, on April 22, 2016 174 countries and the European Union
3 signed the Paris Climate Agreement, recognizing the threat of climate change and
4 agreeing to pursue efforts to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees
5 Celsius; and

6 **WHEREAS**, on October 8, 2018 the United Nations International Panel
7 on Climate Change (IPCC) projected that limiting the global temperature increase
8 to 1.5 degrees Celsius will require unprecedented transitions in all aspects of
9 society over the next 12 years; and

10 **WHEREAS**, over 700 governmental jurisdictions across the world have
11 recently declared or officially acknowledged the existence of a global climate
12 emergency; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the impacts and risks of climate change include increased
14 and intensifying extreme weather events, including those that Austin is
15 particularly vulnerable to, such as wildfires, flooding, and drought; and

16 **WHEREAS**, NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies reported global
17 temperatures in 2018 were .83 degrees Celsius warmer than the average
18 temperature between 1951 and 1980, and the past five years are collectively the
19 warmest in modern history; and

20 **WHEREAS**, on June 24, 2019 more than 70 health organizations including
21 the American Medical Association and the American Public Health Association
22 declared climate change to be a health emergency and issued a call to action for
23 government, business, and civil society leaders to recognize climate change as a
24 health emergency; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, in 2014, ATMOS Research and Consulting’s Climate Change
27 Projections for the City of Austin predicted increases in annual and seasonal
28 average temperatures, more frequent high temperature extremes, more frequent
29 extreme precipitation, and more frequent drought conditions in summer due to
30 hotter weather; and

31 **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin has committed to achieving net zero
32 greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, which is a vital and necessary step towards
33 slowing and stemming warming trends; and

34 **WHEREAS**, Austin Energy has committed to 65 percent renewable energy
35 by the end of 2027; and

36 **WHEREAS**, on January 11, 2019 Austin was selected as a winner of up
37 to two years of support from Bloomberg Philanthropies as part of the American
38 Cities Climate Challenge; and

39 **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin has committed to a goal of Zero Waste by
40 2040; and

41 **WHEREAS**, transportation is currently the leading cause of greenhouse
42 gas emissions in Austin, and the City of Austin has taken the following actions
43 to address transportation’s role in climate change: 1) on May 9, 2019 the City
44 Council voted unanimously to include planning and goal-setting for the
45 electrification of Austin’s transportation systems in the upcoming update to the
46 Austin Community Climate Plan; 2) on April 11, 2019 the City Council adopted
47 the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan; 3) on October 5, 2017 the City released the Smart
48 Mobility Roadmap; and 4) on October 5, 2016 the Mobility Committee approved a

49 roadmap to achieve 100 percent fleet electrification by 2020; and

50 **WHEREAS**, on May 9, 2019 the City Council unanimously approved a
51 resolution supporting the Green New Deal and directing City staff to develop
52 recommendations for a comprehensive climate resilience plan; and

53 **WHEREAS**, Health and Environment was identified as one of six priority
54 Strategic Outcomes of Austin Strategic Direction 2023, with indicators
55 including climate change and resilience and environmental quality; and

56 **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin has been at the forefront of sustainability
57 and environmental policy and can be a global leader in emergency climate action
58 by building a climate-resilient and adaptive city for all residents; and

59 **WHEREAS**, building a climate-resilient and adaptive society will have a
60 positive impact on the health and wellbeing of residents, and will offer
61 protections from the drastic potential consequences of climate change to Austin's
62 ecosystems and economies; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

64 Austin City Council declares a climate emergency and calls for an
65 immediate emergency mobilization to restore a safe climate.

66 The City Manager is directed to determine an accountability and regular
67 reporting structure to City Council on overarching climate change goals and
68 mobilization efforts. The City Manager is also directed to provide clarity on leadership
69 responsibilities for climate change goals within the new Assistant/City Manager
70 organizational structure.

71 The City Manager is directed to provide support for Council roles in

72 intergovernmental bodies involved in issues related to climate change including
73 CAMPO, CAPCOG, and CapMetro, to advance and supplement efforts to address
74 climate impacts of policy decisions made by these bodies. The City Manager is
75 also directed to coordinate efforts with partners at the county, state, and federal
76 levels.

77 As part of ongoing climate mobilization efforts, the City Manager is directed
78 to work with relevant City departments and external stakeholders to develop and
79 present to Council a community awareness campaign plan that builds on the work
80 done by the Office of Sustainability. The goals of a community awareness
81 campaign would include recruiting and training a diverse base of community
82 ambassadors to educate, guide, and prepare communities that are most impacted
83 by climate change. Education should range from helping families engage with
84 methods like recycling to ensuring that Austin residents understand the potential
85 catastrophic effects of the climate crisis, especially for vulnerable communities at
86 home and abroad. The community awareness campaign plan should identify all
87 resources necessary in order for successful implementation.

88 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

89 As part of the upcoming update to the Austin Community Climate Plan, the
90 City Manager is directed to:

- 91 • examine existing climate-related objectives (for example, those related to
92 net-zero emissions and renewable energy) and identify the feasibility of
93 accelerating the timelines of achieving the City's climate-related objectives
- 94 • request Council appropriation of sufficient funding for the upcoming
95 update to the Austin Community Climate Plan.

96 The City Manager is directed to work with relevant departments to promote
97 inter-departmental coordination and to incorporate climate resilience policies
98 during planned updates to City plans with climate impacts, including the Austin
99 Community Climate Plan, the Austin Energy Resource, Generation, and Climate
100 Protection Plan, the Zero Waste Master Plan, the Hazard Mitigation Plan, the
101 Flood Mitigation Plan, Water Forward, the Land Development Code, Public Health
102 Emergency Preparedness plans, and other City plans to ensure climate change and
103 resiliency efforts are strong, effective, and aligned.

104 The City Manager is directed to work with relevant departments to
105 identify innovative policy approaches to address climate change's causes and
106 consequences, including the promotion of natural systems, green infrastructure, and
107 carbon sequestration; the role of tree planting as a carbon offsetting strategy;
108 public cooling spaces to combat heat waves; community agriculture and local
109 food access; carbon tax credits; promoting the goals of the Austin Strategic
110 Mobility Plan, including a shift to 50 percent of trips being independent from
111 single occupancy cars, as a means of addressing the climate crisis. The City
112 Manager is also directed to examine existing City plans to identify those that may
113 be outdated.

114 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

115 The City Manager is directed to promote inter-departmental coordination
116 to ensure that existing emergency management plans offer an aligned approach
117 to the threats of climate change and natural hazards, including wildfire and
118 flooding, and to identify where planning gaps may exist.

119 Furthermore, the City Manager is directed to identify the support needed to
120 implement the Office of Sustainability's recommendation to leverage and invest

121 in established and trusted community facilities in low-to-moderate income areas
122 to serve as “Resilience Hubs,” and to ensure that new facilities have the capacity
123 to serve as shelters, evacuation centers, and disaster response hubs during climate
124 emergencies.

125 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

126 The City Manager is directed to report back to City Council on an
127 accountability and regular reporting structure by October 1, 2019. The City
128 Manager is directed to report on a climate awareness campaign and identified gaps
129 in City planning by February 1, 2020.

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133 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2019 **ATTEST:** _____

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Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

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