

RESOLUTION NO. 20190808-71

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to ensure that Downtown Austin continues to appeal to residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Downtown Design Guidelines recommended creating drinking fountains throughout the urban landscape; and

WHEREAS, City Code requires that drinking fountains be included as part of the design of certain public facilities, including municipal pools; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Age Friendly Action Plan recommends increasing the number of public spaces equipped with drinking fountains as one strategy for increasing access to open spaces and public buildings; and

WHEREAS, Council has received testimony in recent years urging the City of Austin to install drinking fountains in Downtown; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Austin experienced 51 days with temperatures 100 degrees or higher, and 42 such days in 2017; and

WHEREAS, climate change is causing temperatures to rise, and 2018 was Austin's third-hottest summer of record; and

WHEREAS, access to free fresh water, particularly during the warm summer months, is vital to life and health; and

WHEREAS, drinking fountains in our growing Downtown would serve a variety of diverse users, including visitors, Downtown employees and patrons, individuals experiencing homelessness, and individuals using bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, many cities of all sizes have recognized the importance of free drinking fountains and have invested in this infrastructure; **NOW, THEREFORE,**
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to consult with the relevant City departments, the Downtown Austin Alliance, and other interested stakeholders to identify at least 10 locations within the boundaries of I-35, 15th Street, Barton Springs Road/Riverside Drive along Lady Bird Lake (including parkland along the lake), and Lamar Boulevard, including the Zilker Park Area to the west, that would be suitable to install free, ADA compliant, 24-hour drinking fountains that could be accessed by both individuals and their pets. At least two of these proposed locations should be in the area bounded by Red River Street, E. 8th Street, Trinity Street, and E. 7th Street and one in the area near E. 4th Street, in the general vicinity of the Downtown Metro Rail Station and the Convention Center.

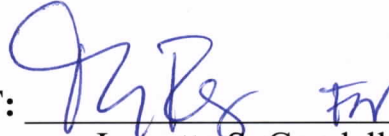
The City Manager is directed to bring forth both the proposed locations and a budget estimate for the installation, operations, and maintenance of drinking fountains no later than September 1, 2019, so Council may consider a budget allocation during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 budget adoption process. The City Manager is directed to analyze whether these costs could be borne by the Austin Water Utility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Should a FY 19-20 budget allocation be successful, the City Manager is directed to expedite the procurement process so drinking fountains can be installed and functional as quickly as possible.

ADOPTED: August 8, 2019

ATTEST:



Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk