

RESOLUTION NO. 20190808-144

WHEREAS, Council passed Resolution 20170608-033, directing exploration of public safety and pedestrian enhancements for the Red River Cultural District; and

WHEREAS, staff provided memo responses to Council on March 20, 2018, and July 12, 2018, providing estimates for some other improvements but indicating that they had not identified funding sources for installation and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, during the Fiscal Year 2019 budget deliberations, Council discussed a possible budget amendment to allocate money from the Great Streets Fund to Red River infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, staff agreed at the time that although several projects were planned, the Great Streets Fund had a balance that would accommodate those planned projects as well as improvements along Red River Street; and

WHEREAS, after discussion, Council decided an amendment was unnecessary but directed the City Manager to allocate Great Streets funding for improvements in the Red River Cultural District and to upgrade the streetscape of this district to the extent practicable to achieve Great Street standards; and

WHEREAS, Council acknowledged that existing right-of-way and utility locations, public safety design considerations, and other factors related to the specific nature of the Red River Cultural District may limit the ability of achieving Great Streets standards within this Cultural District, however, the physical environment within the Red River Cultural District poses immediate needs for design that factors in safety and security due to its proximity to social service agencies; and

WHEREAS, it was determined that the Great Streets funding allocation shall allow for flexibility from the Great Streets standard to achieve safe, continuous, functional enhancements in the District; and

WHEREAS, the contractor recently submitted a building permit application for the gate and fence system described in Resolution 20170608-033; and

WHEREAS, nearly one year later, no other improvements with regard to adding trash receptacles, lighting, temporary art, sidewalk redesign, or safety improvements to the identified alley along Red River Street have been fully completed; and

WHEREAS, the contemplated improvements will honor the commitment the City Council has made to supporting place-making in and otherwise enhancing the Red River Cultural District; and

WHEREAS, much research demonstrates the role that the built environment can play in reducing crime; and

WHEREAS, in the last few weeks, several violent crimes have taken place in the vicinity of Red River Street; and

WHEREAS the City Council desires to move forward immediately with improvements that have been long-requested by business owners, employees, visitors, and others in the area; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Council affirms Economic Development Department's efforts to support and enhance the Red River Cultural District and requests that this department serve as lead for the implementation of the projects described above. The City Council further directs the City Manager to use available funds from the Great

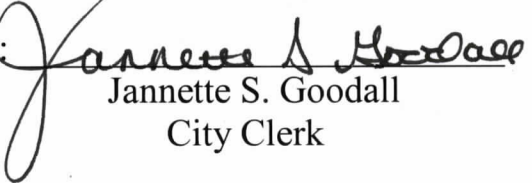
Streets Program to move forward and expedite the projects described in Resolution 20170608-033, including for costs associated with design, engineering, and project manager fees, with priority placed on installing trash receptacles, additional lighting, and pedestrian mobility improvements as soon as possible with work to begin no later than November 1, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Council requests the City Manager to determine whether the permits for the fence and gate installation can be expedited given the expected improvements to public health and public safety that will result from its installation.

ADOPTED: August 8, 2019

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk