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**WHEREAS**, ensuring the resiliency of our local economy and industries due to an unprecedented public health event is of great value to the City of Austin; and

26           **WHEREAS**, local needs for this ongoing public health pandemic rapidly  
27 change and evolve, requiring a nimble and fast-acting City response; and

28           **WHEREAS**, in a March 22, 2020 memorandum, the City Manager  
29 announced a large number of programs, responses, and task forces underway or  
30 planned that include many of the recommendations developed for this resolution;  
31 and

32           **WHEREAS**, it is the intent of the City Council to offer guidance and reduce  
33 any barriers to the City of Austin organization providing quick response to the  
34 rapidly-shifting needs of the community during this unprecedented crisis event.

35 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

37           The City Council of the City of Austin directs the City Manager to prioritize  
38 all necessary resources available to address the public health and economic crises  
39 connected to the emergency declaration related to COVID-19. Except as may be  
40 provided in the City's Charter or state law, via this resolution, the City Council is  
41 acting to preemptively approve measures to reduce any barriers the City Manager  
42 may identify to ensure a quick response to this crisis. To the extent needed to  
43 effectuate the goals and priorities below, the Resolutions previously passed by the  
44 City Council for the programs described below, are hereby waived or suspended in  
45 order to authorize the City Manager to move forward with any of the programs and  
46 solutions listed below.

47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

48           The City Council directs the City Manager to develop programs to support  
49 Austinites that have been economically impacted by the public health crisis,

including, but not limited to, the small and local businesses, musicians, and workers in the creative, hospitality, service, retail, restaurant, music, and film industries and other associated industries impacted by the COVID-19 related cancellation of major events, including, but not limited to the 2020 SXSW Festival.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Council directs the City Manager to consider the following:

Connecting Businesses and Residents to Economic Resources

- Options that can help address short-term impacts while ensuring and maintaining the long-term success and sustainability of the local economy;
- Options that can help individuals and small and local businesses directly with financial assistance and continuity of service for utilities, housing, and other basic necessities;
- Coordinating with regional jurisdictions whose residents and businesses will also suffer economic consequences from the SXSW cancellation and COVID-19 crises, especially where collaboration may advantage state and federal support;
- Providing economic aid for Austinites who do not receive sufficient support or are excluded by federal legislation related to the pandemic;
- Providing childcare subsidies for income-eligible essential workers in the private sector;
- Expanding the definition of “emergency worker” to ensure childcare support is available beyond essential city employees to cover a wider set of critical workers, including but not limited to medical facility workers, providers and their support staff, grocery workers, non-city utility workers, and childcare facility workers;
- Identifying funding that can be dedicated and/or repurposed to loan or grant funds for local restaurants and other small businesses, such as child care centers, impacted by closures;

Promoting and Reassessing Current City Programs

- Reassessing other uses of Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) spending that are not currently assigned to active projects;

- 83 • Considering possible options for repurposing existing HOT funds  
84 assigned to active projects, including heritage grants and convention  
85 center expansion, or delaying pending HOT collections to support the  
86 hospitality sector and its workers, defining any necessary state  
87 exemptions to allow such uses;
- 88 • Considering possible changes to the Chapter 380 economic incentives  
89 program, including but not limited to delaying or suspending the City's  
90 commitments, or providing flexibility for the commitments of businesses  
91 impacted by this crisis;
- 92 • Where necessary, and in collaboration with Workforce Solutions,  
93 adjusting existing economic development, job placement and workforce  
94 development program participation options in order to target those  
95 impacted by the current crisis and leverage other public resources;
- 96 • Where necessary, adjusting program eligibility guidelines to target the  
97 current crisis;
- 98 • Where necessary, adjusting, delaying, or waiving fees for community  
99 services, including waiving the Austin Resource Recovery extra  
100 residential garbage fee;
- 101 • Considering waiving fees and delaying required payments from  
102 businesses that obtained special event permits;
- 103 • Considering delaying or suspending compliance deadlines for any notices  
104 of violations for non-health/safety-related code infractions scheduled to  
105 occur during the time of the City's declared disaster;
- 106 • Considering contract amendments, where necessary;
- 107 • Considering third-party facilitation services to expedite administrative  
108 needs and services to the community;

#### 109 Using Existing Data and Collecting New Data to Drive Decision-Making

- 110 • Exploring using 311 to gather real-time needs assessments and solution  
111 generation from the community;
- 112 • Leveraging the survey capacity of community organizations and the  
113 social services sector to obtain survey results that inform choices, as  
114 appropriate.

115 All measures should aim to ensure that economic support provided by the  
116 City benefits Austin's businesses as well as Austin's workforce (i.e., ensuring City

funding can sustain local businesses while also ensuring that employees are supported through a continuing job with fair wages/benefits, access to hire-backs, or access to state and federal benefits)

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Council directs the City Manager to leverage all public and private options available at the local, state, and federal level to help address the larger public health-related issues of COVID-19 connected to the Emergency Operations Center response, including but not limited to:

- Exploring options that can provide assistance (including financial, sick leave, etc.) and supplies (including personal protective equipment and essential health and hygiene supplies, etc.) to persons and organizations, including personal care assistants and childcare workers and centers that provide services to elderly individuals, children, and persons with disabilities; and
- Exploring options that can provide assistance (including financial) and supplies (including personal protective equipment) to medical organizations (including smaller practices) that provide medical services.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk