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WHEREAS, in the wake of COVID-19, the City of Austin has worked diligently alongside other governmental, nonprofit, and businesses to provide relief for unprecedented levels of food insecurity in our community; and

WHEREAS, since the pandemic, Austin Independent School District (AISD) has been consistently serving between 4,000 and 6,000 school-aged children approximately 8,000-12,000 meals per weekday at more than 70 sites across Austin; and

WHEREAS, student meals are reimbursable under the federal National School Meals program and are provided five days per week with a Friday pack that includes meals for the weekend; and

WHEREAS, the City’s Food Access Working Group has received reports of caregivers splitting student meals in order to fill the gap created by the job and income loss they are experiencing due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, AISD and other Independent School Districts (ISDs) cannot receive reimbursement for meals provided to caregivers of students; and

WHEREAS, partnering with businesses to prepare caregiver meals would allow the City to support economic recovery efforts as well as fill the gap of food insecurity created by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, City staff has contacted all of the ISDs within the City of Austin to gauge their interest and capacity to provide caregiver meals, should funding be identified; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the City has worked with the ISDs to identify businesses that are in
23 need of economic support due to second-order effects of the COVID-19 emergency and
24 that can begin meal preparation within one to two weeks; and

25 **WHEREAS**, providing caregiver meals along with student meals leverages school
26 districts' existing investment in transportation and distribution; and

27 **WHEREAS**, AISD estimates that adult meals will cost approximately \$5 per meal
28 and that approximately 6,000 adults could be served each day; and

29 **WHEREAS**, businesses would benefit from this funding, and this partnership
30 assists the City's efforts to support economic recovery efforts; and

31 **WHEREAS**, the Texas Board of Agriculture has extended AISD's ability to
32 provide emergency student meals until the end of June; and

33 **WHEREAS**, AISD and Del Valle Independent School District (DVISD) have
34 confirmed its interest in such an arrangement; and

35 **WHEREAS**, AISD estimates that the cost to serve up to 6,000 caregivers per day
36 until the end of June is approximately \$1.47 million if the program begins on May 11; and

37 **WHEREAS**, DVISD estimates that it could serve up to 20,000 adult meals a week
38 and in consultation with Austin Public Health, the City estimates that cost for these meals
39 could be up to \$700,000 if the program begins on May 11; and

40 **WHEREAS**, leveraging public dollars to scale-up existing community hubs that
41 are providing essential, life-sustaining services to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic is
42 critical, **NOW, THEREFORE:**

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

44 The Council authorizes the City Manager to allocate up to \$2.2 million of
45 previously unbudgeted funding for caregiver meals to be delivered through AISD and
46 DVISD's school meal distribution sites. The City Manager is authorized to implement this
47 action by expanding existing contracts, executing new emergency contracts, or any other
48 reasonable means. Funding for this allocation is pursuant to approval of the companion
49 budget amendment.

50 The City Manager is directed to execute the agreements necessary to invest the
51 emergency funding so that caregiver meal distribution can begin on May 11, 2020, if
52 possible.

53 The City Manager is directed to submit these costs for reimbursement under the
54 CARES Act, as applicable.

55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

56 The City Manager is directed to continue conversations with other Independent
57 School Districts within the City of Austin limits to assess their interest in and need for
58 caregiver meal distribution to connect with businesses in need of economic support due
59 to second-order effects of the COVID-19 emergency. The City Manager is directed to
60 provide City Council with information about these conversations by May 13, 2020, and,
61 if appropriate, to present Council with a proposed budget amendment for consideration.
62 Should a budget amendment be approved by Council, the City Manager is directed to
63 apply for reimbursement under the CARES Act, as applicable.

64 The City Manager is directed to discuss with Travis County the possibility of a
65 similar partnership with school districts that fall outside of the City of Austin and within
66 Travis County and to provide Council with a status update on this engagement.

67
68
69 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2020

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
Secretary