RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has incurred a wide variety of additional and unexpected costs in response to the public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City's Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Approved Budget is a strategic document designed to align the City's resources with the priorities, vision and values set in the Strategic Direction 2023, and the impact of unanticipated COVID-19 response costs on the FY 2020 Budget is yet to be determined; and

WHEREAS, the City is eligible for funding from several recent acts of federal legislation passed to provide financial relief for municipalities addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, including all of the various categories of funding within the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Security (CARES) Act; and

WHEREAS, permissible uses of federal relief funds have various requirements and allowable uses, and the City of Austin must make determinations about the appropriate uses of those funds and eligible reimbursements of department expenditures; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Council affirms its intent to maximize the effectiveness of federal relief funds, to minimize the impact of unexpected COVID-19 response costs on the City's FY2020 Annual Approved Budget, and to maintain the integrity of the City's longer-term budget outlook.

The City Council directs the City Manager to place on the May 21st agenda for Council approval of a COVID-19 spending framework for the use of all federal and state funding that leverages and maximizes the benefit of those funds, to the greatest

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extent possible. In developing the framework, the City Manager shall consider identified needs, the purposes of each funding source, and how to best align funding sources to identified needs in order to most effectively leverage all available funding. In presenting the proposed budget, the City Manager shall include a timeline for expenditures that aligns with the requirements for each funding source.

The framework should include all funding previously approved by Council and such other funding the City Manager has identified as necessary for mitigation and prevention of the spread of COVID-19 and for recovery efforts that invest in resiliency and the community's ability to withstand additional waves of the virus.

The City Manager shall organize the framework in categories aligned with immediate term and longer-term needs, allowing for flexibility, as conditions change over the coming months, and providing for regular monthly reporting to Council and for updating the framework, as needed. The City Manager shall include all available funding in the framework, while allowing a category for contingencies.

The City Manager's framework shall include funding for at least the following categories:

1. IMMEDIATE OPERATIONS: Operational and programmatic adjustments necessary for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS: Support for preventing and reducing the risk and incidence of spread of COVID-19 among vulnerable populations to include:

- Residents of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities;

- People experiencing homelessness, quarantining, sheltering, and social services;
- Fragile seniors living in their own homes or with relatives; and
- Populations with underlying health conditions and/or who have been compelled to find or maintain employment without adequate protective equipment or measures.

3. IMMEDIATE SUPPORT TO MITIGATE ECONOMIC IMPACTS: Support for those immediately impacted due to loss of employment, or other impacts from the pandemic, including:

- Relief in a State of Emergency (RISE);
- Support for small businesses, nonprofit organizations, artists, and musicians; and
- Utility payment relief.

4. RECOVERY AND RESILENCY ACTIVITIES: Actions necessary to prevent additional waves of COVID-19 and enable the community to fully recover, with greater resiliency, such as:

- Widespread testing in the community, prioritizing first responders and vulnerable populations;
- Contact tracing resources sufficient to monitor triggers for increased risks;
- Resiliency programs for vulnerable populations and those most impacted, including communities disparately impacted by the spread of COVID-19;
- Planning activities designed to study approaches to create greater resiliency in the community; and

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- Programs targeted at economic recovery, including workforce and jobs programs and stimulus programs for the small business and creative sectors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council directs the City Manager to continue to address all the impacts of COVID-19 on the community, and to continue to prioritize, first and foremost, resources/programs that will save lives, prevent overwhelming the health care system, and address the public health crisis that is the root cause of the economic crisis. The City Council recognizes that the economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis will become even more severe and long-lasting if the public health crisis is not adequately addressed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

The City Council directs the City Manager to prioritize restricted-use federal relief funds for expenditures on programs that directly impact vulnerable populations and make use of unrestricted funds to the extent possible for expenditures with less direct impacts, such as equipment purchases and personnel expenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

This resolution and the actions requested of the City Manager should not be read to limit or delay necessary assistance to the community during the COVID-19 crisis.

ADOPTED: _____, 2020 **ATTEST: _____**

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

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