

RESOLUTION NO.

**WHEREAS**, there is a high demand that is not being met for shelters to serve those who have experienced family violence; and

**WHEREAS**, during the COVID-19 local disaster, overall incidents of crime have decreased while family violence rates have increased; and

**WHEREAS**, SAFE Alliance reports that as of May 28, 2020, 70 adults and children were on their waitlist for admission and a number of households were assessed as being medium/high or high risk for lethality; and along with SAFE Alliance, there are a number of organizations in the Austin area offering differing approaches to the emergency needs of survivors, including Hope Alliance and Survive2Thrive who have used hotel rooms in 12 of hotels to place 98 adults and children through their Sanctuary program; and

**WHEREAS**, preventing homelessness and supporting housing stability is a public health priority during the COVID-19 local disaster; and

**WHEREAS**, providing shelter for those who have experienced family violence addresses homelessness as illustrated by the following statistics:

- 80% of U.S. moms experiencing homelessness had previously experienced family violence,
- 70% of people experiencing homelessness in Austin/Travis County report that past trauma or abuse caused their current homelessness, and
- 76% of youth experiencing homelessness have experienced foster care, juvenile justice, or both; and

**WHEREAS**, an existing hotel with the following features could be renovated to serve hundreds of families as protective shelter from family violence:

- Approximately 70-100 furnished hotel rooms, including studios, one-room, and two-room suites, with kitchenettes,
- an outdoor space, common areas, onsite residential laundry facility,
- located in a safe, walkable, residential area, close to a grocery store and neighborhood schools, and on a bus line, and
- property has a controlled entrance and front desk and is able to be fenced and secured; and

**WHEREAS**, the City, at its discretion, could choose for such a repurposed hotel to operate as protective shelter, or as a mix of protective shelter and bridge housing or permanent supportive housing, depending on need and available funds;

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Manager is directed to analyze and consider, as part of the City Manager's Fiscal Year 20-21 budget development process, the funding necessary to acquire a hotel and fund a service provider to operate and manage the property as protective shelter from family violence. Such a project should be analyzed and considered, in context with solutions that leverage hotels or other shelter without a real estate purchase, above and beyond the City's existing hotel acquisition strategy.

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

Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk