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WHEREAS, during the fiscal year 2018 budget process, the City Council passed a budget rider to provide recommendations on methods to equitably fund the local chambers of commerce; and

WHEREAS, in response to City Council’s budget rider, the Economic Development Department (EDD) commissioned the Equitable Chamber Funding Report (Report) to provide recommendations on methods to equitably fund the local chambers of commerce; and

WHEREAS, Sabre Development, LLC (Sabre) was hired by the EDD through a competitive solicitation process to research, analyze, and complete the Report in coordination with the Office of Performance Management, Equity Office, Budget Office, and EDD; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce, the Austin LGBT Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Austin Economic Development Corporation (Opportunity Austin), the Austin Young Chamber of Commerce, and the Austin Independent Business Alliance were included in the analysis and stakeholder process; and

WHEREAS, a broad outreach and stakeholder process with all the local chambers of commerce to address equitable funding recommendations align with Strategic

21 Direction 2023 (SD23) outcomes, specifically Economic Opportunity and Affordability
22 as well as Cultural and Learning Opportunities strategic plan outcomes; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Opportunity Austin has received funding for eight years from EDD
24 and five years from Austin Energy, and the Austin Independent Business Alliance has
25 received funding for 12 years from EDD; and

26 **WHEREAS**, contracting with the minority chambers of commerce has been in
27 place for more than 13 years at various funding levels but with similar contractual
28 performance metrics; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Sabre developed a base equitable funding model and methodology
30 after conducting stakeholder engagement, chamber assessments, and national best
31 practices research; and

32 **WHEREAS**, equitable funding factors were determined and quantitatively
33 distributed to create a base equitable funding model; and

34 **WHEREAS**, the initial Report was delivered to City Council in October 2019 and
35 one-on-one meetings were conducted with individual Council Members; and

36 **WHEREAS**, in January 2020, City Council authorized one-year contracts with the
37 local chambers of commerce at their current funding levels to serve as a transition year;
38 and

39 **WHEREAS**, the one-year contracts with each local chamber of commerce were
40 performance-based with detailed program metrics based on the specific needs of their

communities including business engagement, workforce development, and capacity building in accordance with the recommendations set forth in the Report; and

WHEREAS, the local chambers of commerce are currently operating under a performance-based contract with monthly payments due to each chamber subject to the chamber's submittal of a monthly status report tracking completed contract deliverables, including technical assistance hours provided to members, educational events with attendance information, data, and demographics as well as worksheets with detailed administration and performance of the contract; and

WHEREAS, throughout 2020, EDD and Sabre assisted the local chambers to prepare for the transition to the equitable funding model by implementing various key recommendations including capacity building and strategic planning; and

WHEREAS, in November 2020, a final Report was delivered to City Council detailing the recommended equitable funding model and methodology that has the flexibility to adjust the contract award amounts in accordance with City Council's priorities; and

WHEREAS, on December 10, 2020, City Council authorized one-year agreements for fiscal year 2021-2022 that honor the equitable funding model as outlined in the Report for the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce and keeping the current contract amounts the same for the Asian Chamber of Commerce and the LGBT Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has yet to contract with all the local chambers of commerce based on the equitable funding model; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Council adopts the Equitable Chamber Funding Report and its findings supporting the base equitable funding model and methodology for contracting and funding the local chambers of commerce as outlined in the Report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to contract with the local chambers of commerce for fiscal year 2022-2023 and later years based on the base equitable funding model and methodology as outlined in the Report.

ADOPTED: _____, 2021 **ATTEST:** _____

Jannette S. Goodall

City Clerk