

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

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

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

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

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

19 **WHEREAS**, a broad outreach and stakeholder process with all the local chambers  
20 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

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

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

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

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

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

