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WHEREAS, poor housing conditions add to the burdens already experienced by low-income and marginalized communities, including physical and mental health stressors; and

WHEREAS, more sustainable action is required to address health and safety emergencies experienced by our city’s renters, including unsafe and uninhabitable living conditions, risks of homelessness, and displacement; and

WHEREAS, a diligent effort is required by landlords to remedy or repair certain conditions in a timely manner, especially during a state of emergency, and landlords should be held accountable to their tenants; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, City Council adopted City Code Chapter 4-14 (Registration of Rental Property) with the goal to ensure that Austin renters are living in properties that meet minimum health and safety standards, as defined by the International Property Maintenance Code; and

WHEREAS, it is a fundamental human right to access livable housing conditions and therefore it is even more important to protect tenant's rights; and

WHEREAS, Winter Storm Uri further compounded unsafe living conditions experienced by Austin tenants, further straining available housing inventories and City resources; **NOW THEREFORE**,

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

26 The Council directs the City Manager to provide a report detailing action
27 taken to protect renters' health and safety as a result of Winter Storm Uri, including
28 but not limited to a summary of:

- 29 a. all investigations and documentation of health and safety violations
30 related to Winter Storm Uri, including the number of 3-1-1 calls and
31 requests made, and the distribution of these calls and requests
32 throughout the city;
- 33 b. the habitability of the inspected units; and
- 34 c. details regarding the landlords' stated timelines and other statements
35 regarding repair needs and repair plans provided to the Austin Code
36 Department by the landlord.

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

38 The City Manager is directed to develop recommendations allowing the
39 Austin Code Department to proactively use authority to cite landlords who have
40 failed to make repairs to damage caused by Winter Storm Uri.

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

42 The City Manager is directed to provide an update on the existing emergency
43 relocation services enacted in response to a disaster declaration. This shall include
44 details about the processes to immediately relocate individuals, the criteria for
45 emergency relocation, and funding used for relocation services.

46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

47 The City Manager is directed to provide budget recommendations in the report
48 to accomplish the following:

- a. Expand the online dashboard and 3-1-1 call hotline program to capture the input of impacted individuals such as location, request, and response time;
- b. Increase Code personnel, with special emphasis on multilingual personnel to provide direct services to cases involving health and safety issues experienced by tenants until they are resolved;
- c. Increase legal resources and funding for community-based legal services and tenants' rights clinics, along with robust multilingual educational material and additional community outreach;
- d. Any additional services supporting tenant rights, especially for people that are elderly, disabled, immigrants, low-income and persons of color;
- e. Increase funding to local community organizations to further provide ongoing education and support around tenant rights and aid application assistance; and
- f. Direct funds from the American Rescue Plan of 2021 and any other available federal, state and local resources toward rent relief, tenant support services, emergency home repairs, displacement mitigation, and utility bill relief, including energy, water, and gas, for vulnerable populations impacted by the storm.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to provide a preliminary report back to Council by April 15, 2021 with the analysis and report requested by this resolution in regard to Winter Storm Uri.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City manager is directed to provide a full report back to Council by June 1, 2021 with a full analysis and report as requested by this resolution.

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

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk