

RESOLUTION NO. 20210610-085

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council has prioritized efforts to end homelessness with continuing public investment, robust community partnerships, and comprehensive reports and analysis from national experts; and

WHEREAS, the Council endorsed the “Austin Action Plan to End Homelessness” in 2018 as a living document that seeks to “build on our success and mobilize public and private resources in the right order of magnitude over time to address large unmet needs;” and

WHEREAS, in July 2020, the Council received the “Investing for Results” report from Barbara Poppe and Associates following collaborative work with community experts like Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) along with City staff; and

WHEREAS the Poppe report recommends a “systems approach” to addressing unsheltered homelessness, recognizing the “responsibility of City and County government agencies” for public space management, among other areas; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Strategic Direction 2023 prioritizes effective and collaborative City government; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20210204-049, the adoption of the Housing-Focused Homeless Encampment Assistance Link (HEAL) initiative, directed the City to enter into partnerships to facilitate implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No. 20210520-039 to update the Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint with a goal of housing 3,000+ people in the next three years, provide more services and reduce

homelessness in our community, and equitably rehouse people from encampments; and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2012 acknowledges that the City of Austin will need to enter into partnerships with public, private, and non-profit organizations and develop coalitions with our regional neighbors to address mutual concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Council directed the City Manager in Resolution No. 20210506-070 to present possible “community partners and regional governmental entities who could share expenses and potentially provide services necessary to implement at multiple temporary designated campgrounds around the city;” and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20210506-070 also directed the City Manager to “identify publicly-owned land or land within the city limits owned by other intergovernmental entities or willing community partners that could accommodate tiny home structures to serve as temporary housing;” and

WHEREAS, a community-led Homelessness Summit held between March 23, 2021, and April 15, 2021, established the goal of housing over 3,000 people experiencing homelessness in three years, including revamping our response system; providing housing stabilization such as prevention, diversion and rapid exit; fully rehousing across the spectrum of need; and specifically including the development of 1,000 units of permanent supportive housing; and

WHEREAS, in line with the Summit recommendations, the Council approved updated goals for the Strategic Housing Blueprint to achieve 3,000-plus homes by 2024 through a “collaboration of local governments, businesses, and philanthropy with the goal of significantly reducing Austin’s unsheltered

population,” and included a goal to provide capital funds for at least 350 permanent supportive housing units per year beginning in FY2022; and

WHEREAS, these Council actions, and the many policy documents related to the challenge of homelessness adopted by the Council, demonstrate a willingness to meet the need with a collaborative approach that engages our community and governmental partners; and

WHEREAS, five members of the Council sent a signed letter to Williamson County elected officials on May 17, 2021, about the importance of jointly addressing the issue of homelessness through ongoing discussions with faith-based groups, mental health groups, social service groups, and non-profit organizations that work directly with people experiencing homelessness, and which may be located within Williamson or Travis County; and

WHEREAS, the letter also included language about informing County leadership as soon as legally and practically possible about any real estate transactions in the portion of the city within their county; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

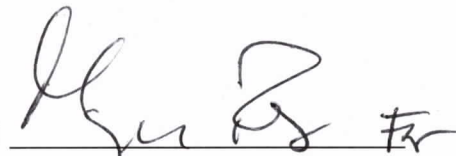
The City Manager is directed to engage in dialogue with Williamson, Travis, and Hays County elected officials and staff and social service providers in these counties about homelessness-related opportunities that may be of benefit or matters of consequence to the City and County. This discussion should include, as soon as legally and practically possible, information about any real estate transaction in the portion of the city within their county. This engagement should also include mutual investments intended to comprehensively address homelessness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to report back to Council by July 29, 2021, and as appropriate thereafter, on progress made toward coordination and collaboration with Williamson, Travis, and Hays County and social service providers in these counties on matters related to comprehensively addressing homelessness.

ADOPTED: June 10, 2021

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk