RESOLUTION NO.

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2	WHEREAS, in 2000 the City Council approved a resolution directing the
3	City Manager and staff to plan for hiring and training staff to operate a class "C"
4	offender booking facility or a sobriety center and plan a Capital Improvement Plan
5	for facilities that could house police, municipal court, and a sobriety center; and,
6	WHEREAS, in 2002 stakeholders worked over a period of six months to
7	create an analysis entitled, "Sobering-Up Station Feasibility Study"; and,
8	WHEREAS, in March 2009 the Travis County Justice and Public Safety
9	Department was selected to participate in the national Justice Reinvestment at the
10	Local Level (JRLL) initiative to develop recommendations to reduce jail
11	populations and reinvest the savings into more proactive public safety measures;
12	and,
13	WHEREAS, the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee under Chair Judge
14	Nancy Hohengarten pursued ongoing efforts to create an Austin-Travis County
15	Sobriety Center; and,
16	WHEREAS, on March 20, 2014, the City Council passed Resolution No.
17	20140320-051, directing the City Manager to work with the Travis County Justice
18	and Public Safety Division, the Travis County Sheriff's Office, the Travis County
18 19	Criminal Courts and Prosecution, the Seton Healthcare Family, the Psychiatric
20	Services Stakeholder work group, and other community members to develop an
21	implementation plan and funding strategies for a sobriety center; and,

WHEREAS, Travis County Commissioners Court passed a similar resolution
on March 11, 2014; and,

WHEREAS, the Austin/Travis County Sobriety Center Planning Committee analyzed the costs associated with arrests, bookings, jail time, ambulance transport, and emergency care for public intoxicants and concluded that serving certain individuals in a non-emergency setting would be more cost-effective than arresting and jailing these individuals and would increase sworn officers' time and the availability of care for people who truly need emergency services; and,

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2016, the City Council authorized the
 creation and incorporation of the Austin/Travis County Sobriety Center Local
 Government Corporation (the "Corporation") pursuant to applicable state law; and,

WHEREAS, the stated mission of the Austin-Travis County Sobriety Center is to enhance public health and public safety by providing an alternative to the emergency room and jail for publicly intoxicated individuals to sober up and, where appropriate, to provide a safe environment to initiate recovery; and,

WHEREAS, from October 2019 to September 30, 2020, the Sobering Center
screened 1,527 individuals and admitted 1, 397 clients, of which 22.19% were
experiencing homelessness, 19.76% were considered at high risk for a substance
use disorder, 35% of individuals were uninsured, and 9.52% were admitted on
more than one occasion; and,

WHEREAS, of those referred to the Sobering Center, 70% were referred by
law enforcement, 26.5% were referred by EMS, and 3% were referred by the
Sobering Center outreach van; and,

WHEREAS, the Sobering Center adopts a public health approach to
substance use disorders by using a social work model to connect people to a
continuum of care; and,

WHEREAS, since the Sobering Center's inception, Travis County jail
bookings for new Public Intoxication Class C misdemeanors have decreased by
45% since FY 18; and,

51 WHEREAS, in 2019, the City of Austin adopted the Meadows Mental Health 52 Policy Institute's report identifying and recommending improvements to the first 53 response system for people experiencing a mental health related emergency, 54 diverting as many as possible to care and treatment, and in 2020 the Austin City 55 Council directed that these recommendations be implemented at full scale in 2021; 56 and,

WHEREAS, the Austin-Travis County Sobering Center FY 20 Impact
Report indicates an overrepresentation of people with substance use disorders and
mental health disorders in the criminal justice and medical systems; and,

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2021, Travis County Commissioners requested that
Travis County staff, specifically the county executives of both Justice & Public
Safety and Health & Human Services, study the potential for and costs of
combining a mental health diversion program with the Sobering Center in
collaboration with the City of Austin and key mental health stakeholders; and,

WHEREAS, Travis County asserted that, "such a program would
complement a variety of diversion programs already established within Travis
County at every level of the criminal justice process and provide more
opportunities for connections to care for those in our community with unmet mental
health needs"; and,

WHEREAS, both the Travis County Commissioners Court and the Sobering
 Center Local Government Corporation Board are currently engaged in discussing

the opportunities associated with a mental health diversion pilot program that couldpotentially take place at the Sobering Center; and,

WHEREAS, the Travis County Commissioners Court has taken action to
initiate a stakeholder process to form an advisory committee to assist with a feasibility
and implementation study for a pilot mental health diversion program with the
Sobering Center; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

The City of Austin expresses its interest in and support of Travis County's initiative to study the opportunities of a mental health diversion pilot program with the Austin-Travis County Sobering Center. The City Manager is directed to participate in the stakeholder process as appropriate.

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ADOPTED:

, 2021 ATTEST: ____

Jannette S. Goodall City Clerk