RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, public health is one of the basic elements of our society; and WHEREAS, the public health system addresses multiple factors that affect health, and there is a dynamic relationship between people and their environment; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic illustrates the importance of having policy, plans, programs, and operations ready to address public health crisis at a national, state and local level; and

WHEREAS, every citizen deserves the opportunity to enjoy a healthy life, free of disease and disability, but health disparities persist as a result of unequal socioeconomic factors; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) asserts that reducing health disparities is a major goal of public health; and

WHEREAS, the CDC Health Disparities and Inequalities 2013 Report found that eliminating health disparities for minorities from 2003–2006 would have reduced direct medical expenditures by approximately \$229 billion and reduced indirect costs associated with illness and premature death by approximately \$1 trillion; and

WHEREAS, eliminating health disparities is essential to strengthening the nation's health and economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, while there are multiple groups working to improve public health in the City of Austin and Travis County, there is a need to advise city and county governments as well as nonprofit organizations on public health and human service needs and approaches for improvement; and

WHEREAS, Austin Public Health proposed the creation of an Austin/Travis County Public Health Advisory Commission in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Committee of the Austin City Council revisited the creation of an Austin/Travis County Public Health Advisory Commission in 2021; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Manager is directed to collaborate with Travis County on the creation of a joint Austin/Travis County Public Health Commission to:

- 1. Monitor the public health status of Austin and Travis County;
- 2. Explore the best/evidence-based public health practices for areas that need improvement and provide recommendations;
- 3. Inform policy makers, administrators, and public health agencies atlarge about the status of the public health system;
- 4. Provide an annual formal recommendation on the improvement of overall public health programs, projects, regulations, and services within the governing entities in the city and county;
- 5. Work to address health disparities that impact health outcomes for underserved patients and populations;
- 6. Gather input from the community on budget and programing recommendation to share with policy makers and health agencies annually; and
- 7. Report periodically to the Public Health Committee of the Austin City Council and to the Travis County Commissioners Court (or appropriate committee thereof).

The commission should be composed of a balanced and diverse membership that represents a broad range of health and human services interests and lived experiences, and should be provided with staff support by Austin Public Health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to return to council before March 30, 2022, with a formal recommendation on the implementation of creating a joint Austin/Travis County Public Health Commission.

ADOPTED:	, 2021	ATTEST: _	
			Jannatta S. Goodall

Jannette S. Goodall City Clerk