

RESOLUTION NO. 20220303-026

WHEREAS, the Austin Fire Department is committed to creating safe and resilient communities through fire prevention and preparedness, and through effective emergency response; and

WHEREAS, the Watershed Protection Department protects lives, property, and the environment of our community by reducing the impact of flood, erosion, and water pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Watershed Protection Department operates and maintains approximately 1,000 miles of storm sewer pipes that convey surface runoff to the City's primary drainage system, i.e., the creeks and waterways; and

WHEREAS, fire suppression foam and water are essential tools used by the Austin Fire Department to extinguish fires; and

WHEREAS, fire suppression foam greatly aids the Austin Fire Department in minimizing loss of life and property damage; and

WHEREAS, firefighting activities can result in a discharge to receiving waterways; and

WHEREAS, when released into waterways, firefighting runoff can harm aquatic systems and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, because it serves a critical need, firefighting runoff is exempt from water quality code; and

WHEREAS, the Watershed Protection Department's strategies to minimize and mitigate adverse impacts from firefighting runoff to receiving waterways are generally more effective when notification and response are made in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, while the Austin Fire Department, the Watershed Protection Department, and the Austin Water Utility ordinarily communicate about events that result in firefighting runoff into waterways, such communication is not required and thus may not be consistent; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager shall create a requirement and process for timely Austin Fire Department notification to the Watershed Protection Department and, as relevant, to the Austin Water Utility, so these departments can take prompt action to mitigate any adverse impact from firefighting runoff to waterways to the maximum extent practicable. The City Manager shall complete this work and provide the City Council with a memorandum to this effect no later than March 31, 2022.

ADOPTED: March 3, 2022

ATTEST: *EP Brady for*
Myrna Rios
City Clerk