## RESOLUTION NO.

2	WHEREAS, menstrual products, such as pads, tampons, cups, and liners,
3	are necessary purchases for the vast majority of women; and
4	WHEREAS, menstrual products, like tampons and sanitary napkins, are
5	essential health items for women; and
6	WHEREAS, just as public restrooms provide toilet paper and soap for
7	patrons, they should also provide tampons and sanitary napkins; and
8	WHEREAS, the average woman has her period for 2,535 days of her life,
9	which is about seven years, and will spend about \$18,000 on menstrual products;
10	and
11	WHEREAS, tampons and pads are subject to sales tax and are not covered
12	by food stamps; and
13	WHEREAS, for women below the poverty line, this means they may go
14	without menstrual products, which may lead to missed work and school; and
15	WHEREAS, in 2021 the Alliance for Period Supplies reported that two in
16	five people have struggled to purchase menstrual products, a 35% increase from
17	the brand's initial research in 2018; and
18	WHEREAS, to create equity for menstruating individuals, there is a
10	
19	growing movement to provide menstrual products in schools and workplaces free
20	growing movement to provide menstrual products in schools and workplaces free of charge; and
20	of charge; and

24	WHEREAS, in 2017, City Council passed a Resolution No. 20170323-054
25	codifying the City's commitment to "eliminate any distinction, exclusion, or
26	restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or
27	nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of marital
28	status, on the basis of equality between men and women, of human rights or
29	fundamental freedom in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil, or any other
30	field;" and
31	WHEREAS, in 2019, the Commission for Women recommended funding
32	be used to develop and implement a menstrual equity program in all City facilities;
33	and
34	WHEREAS, in 2019 Austin Public Health conducted a pilot project,
35	initiated by Councilmember Natasha Harper-Madison, to distribute menstrual
36	supplies to Austin residents via neighborhood centers, health centers, and other
37	City facilities, and one outcome was that 72% of those receiving supplies said it
38	enabled them to not miss school; and
39	WHEREAS, through a blend of funds from the Austin Public Health
40	Department (APH) and various City Council offices, the pilot program was funded
41	in the amount of \$32,945; and
42	WHEREAS, APH funded a portion of the pilot program of \$10,000 through
43	savings in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 budget; and
44	WHEREAS, in 2021, the Commission for Women recommended that
45	Council expand APH's original initiative by providing free menstrual products in
46	the following locations: showers and bathrooms accessible to people experiencing
47	homelessness, neighborhood health centers, sexual health clinics, public libraries,
48	and community recreation centers and summer camps; and

49	WHEREAS, in 2022, the Commission for Women recommended the City
50	to allocate funding to APH to distribute menstrual hygiene supplies, and
51	implement the lessons learned from the 2019 pilot project; and
52	WHEREAS, May 28th is globally recognized as Menstrual Hygiene
53	Awareness Day with the purpose of normalizing the action of menstruation and the
54	importance of access to hygiene during this time; NOW, THEREFORE,
55	BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:
56	The City Manager is directed to:
57	Provide free menstrual products in the following spaces:
58 59 60	<ul> <li>City-owned showers and bathrooms accessible to people experiencing homelessness, such as those listed in the City's COVID-19 Basic Needs Map;</li> </ul>
61 62	• APH facilities that serve the public, including neighborhood centers and sexual health clinics;
63	All Austin Public Library facilities; and
64	<ul> <li>All City-owned community recreation centers and summer camps.</li> </ul>
65	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:
66	City Council affirms their support of this resolution as a budget priority for
67	the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget and the City Manager is directed to consider it
68	when drafting his proposed budget.
69	
70	A D O DEED AGO A TENTERE
71	ADOPTED:, 2022 ATTEST: Myrna Rios
72 73	City Clerk