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RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Safer 6th Street Resolutions (Resolution No. 20210729-175 and Resolution No. 20220303-061) directed a series of actions aimed at supporting law enforcement officers in preventing crime in this district. These actions included:

- establishing an interdepartmental team
- developing a nightlife management plan
- reviewing the City’s mass casualty response plan
- initiating joint actions with the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission to curb underage drinking
- establishing an Emergency Medical Services staging area on 6th Street with specialized equipment
- upgrading existing lighting and adding temporary lighting as needed to provide dramatically brighter spaces
- conducting a comprehensive lighting survey of the area prior to Fiscal Year 2023 budget deliberations
- encouraging owners to add lighting to private properties
- creating an entertainment permit for places of assembly in the Sixth Street District open after 12 a.m.
- working with all 6th Street bar owners to encourage written safety plans, training for door staff, increased communication with Austin Police Department and peer businesses, and the establishment of codes of conduct for staff and patrons

- analyzing Sixth Street weekend closures and, if staff recommend re-opening the street, identifying criteria and timeline
- exploring and piloting options for water barriers, café seating, and other temporary strategies for creating obstacles and less gathering space in the street itself and creating wider sidewalk areas for pedestrians
- collaborating with the Downtown Austin Alliance Foundation on the active storefront program, the reconstruction of East 6th Street, alley activation, public realm improvements, and on initiatives such as a public market on Sabine Street
- creating a pilot program to make loans or grants to historic buildings along 6th Street for kitchen additions
- providing information and recommendations related to re-establishing a gun buyback program
- identifying legal actions that the City could take against establishments with records of repeated violent incidents; and

WHEREAS, staff have provided Council with responsive memoranda dated October 5, 2021; December 27, 2021; and May 18, 2022; and

WHEREAS, staff have completed multiple action items – including establishing the team, conducting joint operations with TABC, and repairing lighting – and have set in motion all other recommendations from the two previous Safer 6th Street resolutions; and

WHEREAS, some important recommendations are still in progress, including the staff’s reassessment of whether some portion of Sixth Street can safely be re-opened for some period on the weekends; and

49 **WHEREAS**, as reported in their May 18, 2022, memo, staff have completed
50 their analysis of High Activity Location Observation (HALO) cameras in response
51 to Resolution No. 20220303-06 and have identified a need for 13 additional
52 cameras for a total of 60 throughout the Sixth Street area; and

53 **WHEREAS**, staff offered two alternative paths for reaching that total
54 suggested number: overhauling the entire system for a total cost of approximately
55 \$898,000 or purchasing the additional 13 cameras for a total of an estimated
56 \$193,000; and

57 **WHEREAS**, Austin Police Department staff continue to research other
58 technologies that can serve as force multipliers and can aid in crime prevention and
59 enforcement; and

60 **WHEREAS**, safety issues along and near Sixth Street remain a pressing and
61 immediate concern; and

62 **WHEREAS**, Council desires to get additional cameras installed as soon as
63 possible; and

64 **WHEREAS**, hotel occupancy taxes have exceeded the staff estimate for 2021-
65 22; and

66 **WHEREAS**, enhancing safety along Sixth Street helps maintain Austin as a
67 place where people from within and outside of Texas will continue to come visit;
68 and

69 **WHEREAS**, these investments may meet the statutory requirements for HOT
70 spending; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

72 The City Manager shall expedite the purchase of 13 HALO cameras with
73 procurement in a manner consistent with State law, and shall provide an estimated
74 timeline for purchase and installation by June 15, 2022.

75 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

76 The City Manager shall use the “Tourism and Promotion Fund,” or such
77 other funding as may be appropriate, as the source for the expenditure and bring
78 forth any budget amendments as may be necessary to use the funding for this
79 purchase.

80 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

81 The City Manager shall return to Council by July 1, 2022, with
82 recommendations for other technology that expands and/or enhances the City’s
83 existing HALO system and shall provide an estimated cost and possible funding
84 sources.

85 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

86 The City Manager shall survey bar operators in the Historic 6th Street
87 District and the Rainey Street Historic District to gauge interest in the City
88 purchasing and distributing hand-held metal detector wands to willing and
89 interested establishments in a manner that provides a public purpose and in
90 alignment with requirements for the use of City funds. The City Manager shall
91 report back with those findings and a cost estimate no later than July 15, 2022.

92
93
94 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2022

ATTEST: _____

Myrna Rios
City Clerk