

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, in August 2019 City Council approved a resolution declaring a climate emergency and, among other actions, directed the creation of community resilience hubs to serve as “shelters, evacuation centers, and disaster response hubs during climate emergencies;” and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20200507-022 directed the City Manager to develop strategies for implementing comprehensive community resilience planning and to identify potential funding for a Chief Resilience Officer to coordinate resilience planning with other regional entities; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20210408-028 directed the City Manager to work with City departments, the Austin Independent School District, Travis County, and the community to identify potential resilience hub locations and to equip these facilities with resources they would need to serve as emergency shelters and more robust community spaces; and

WHEREAS, the City Council allocated \$3 Million from the American Rescue Plan Act to create resilience hubs; and

WHEREAS, since 2020, the nonprofit Go! Austin/Vamos! Austin (GAVA) has been an innovator in the space of enhancing community resilience and disaster preparedness; and

WHEREAS, GAVA’s work has included developing a “Dove Springs Neighborhood Preparedness Guide,” an emergency contact flyer, and preparedness trainings—providing the City with an excellent model of community-based disaster preparedness; and

25 **WHEREAS**, cities around the world have embraced strategies to address
26 climate emergencies such as heat waves; and

27 **WHEREAS**, one notable example is Barcelona, which has leveraged its
28 existing infrastructure to create cooling centers in schools, museums, libraries, and
29 parks during the hours those facilities are typically open during summer months,
30 and Barcelona promotes this network using an online map; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Barcelona selected buildings that already met certain criteria
32 and then invested in amenities such as fountains, gardens and green walls,
33 awnings, solar shading, and new roofs to retrofit additional schools around the city;
34 and

35 **WHEREAS**, this approach enabled Barcelona to increase its “climate
36 shelters” from 70 to 163 in 2021, and these shelters now fall within a 5-minute
37 walkshed from residents anywhere in the city who may need to stay cool during
38 high temperatures; and

39 **WHEREAS**, since the City Council’s approval of the 2021 resilience hubs
40 resolution, many entities have reached out for information about how to equip their
41 community, church, and commercial spaces to serve as resilience hubs; **NOW,**
42 **THEREFORE,**

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

44 The City Manager is directed to work with the Office of Sustainability,
45 GAVA, the Chief Resilience Office, the Office of Homeland Security and
46 Emergency Management, Austin Independent School District, and Travis County
47 to produce a “resilience hub toolkit,” the components of which should include a
48 disaster preparedness guide, online resources for non-city entities interested in

49 hosting a resilience hub, and possible community trainings. The City Manager
50 shall also make available information about City resources that may be available to
51 support this work, such as the Neighborhood Partnering Program, solar panels, and
52 low-interest loans. While the Council expects that this work will evolve and
53 change over time, the City Manager shall make available the first iteration of this
54 work by October 2, 2022;

55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

56 The City Manager shall prepare an item for inclusion in the Fiscal Year
57 2022-23 proposed budget to support this work. At a minimum, the funding should
58 be sufficient for signs at community climate centers/resilience hubs, an online map
59 of centers throughout the City, and online and printed disaster preparedness guides.
60 The City Manager shall consider whether to partner with and compensate
61 community organizations that have developed similar materials to expedite this
62 process.

63
64 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2022 **ATTEST:** _____
65 Myrna Rios
66 City Clerk
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