

RESOLUTION NO. 20220609-067

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL:

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

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

ADOPTED: June 9, 2022

ATTEST: _____

E. Brady for

Myrna Rios
City Clerk