

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, for many years 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

55 The Manager shall collaborate with area school districts to involve school-
56 age children in this work. This collaboration shall include educating young people
57 about disaster preparedness and resilience, creating opportunities for community
58 conversations, and creative participation such as for community-inspired stories
59 and artwork;

60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

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

68
69 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2022 **ATTEST:** _____

70 Myrna Rios
71 City Clerk
72