

## **RESOLUTION NO. 20220616-051**

**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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The City Manager is directed to work with the Office of Sustainability, the Equity Office, the Chief Resiliency Officer, the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Austin Independent School District, Travis County,

Austin Community College, and nonprofit organizations with a proven track record of engaging diverse communities to produce a “resilience hub toolkit,” the components of which should include a disaster preparedness guide, online resources for non-city entities interested in hosting a resilience hub, including (but not limited to) personal preparedness resources from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and ready.gov, and possible community trainings. The City Manager shall also make available information about City resources that may be available to support this work, such as the Neighborhood Partnering Program, solar panels, and low-interest loans. While the Council expects that this work will evolve and change over time, the City Manager shall make available the first iteration of this work by October 2, 2022;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

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

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager shall prepare an item for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2022-23 proposed budget to support this work. At a minimum, the funding should be sufficient for signs at community climate centers/resilience hubs, an online map of centers throughout the City, and online and printed disaster preparedness guides. The City Manager shall consider whether to partner with and compensate

community organizations that have developed similar materials to expedite this process.

**ADOPTED:** June 16, 2022 **ATTEST:** Stephani Hall for  
Myrna Rios  
City Clerk