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## RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Castleman-Bull House is a two-story, load-bearing masonry historic house located at 201 Red River Street across from the service yard of the Austin Convention Center; and

**WHEREAS**, the house was originally constructed in 1873 at 308 East 7th Street; and

WHEREAS, the two-story brick home dates back to 1873, when it was completed by Austin merchant R.M. Castleman, and four generations of Castlemans lived in the house before St. David's Episcopal Church acquired the building in 1963; an

**WHEREAS**, St. David's Episcopal Church leased the house to the Caritas Foundation until it moved to its new location; and

WHEREAS, in December 2000, St. David's Episcopal Church donated the house to the City of Austin, and the Heritage Society (now Preservation Austin) paid to move the Castleman-Bull House seven blocks to its current location; and

WHEREAS, the building has not been occupied since the move; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, renovations for the interior of the Castleman-Bull House were estimated at about \$2 million; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019 the Austin Convention Center spent \$1.7 million to renovate the exterior of the Castleman-Bull House; and

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**WHEREAS**, the Convention Center paid for the renovation from its capital budget, which has an approved ending balance for Fiscal Year 2023 of over \$181 million; and

WHEREAS, according to the Jamail & Smith website, the Castleman-Bull House exterior renovation was intended to create "the first fixed-front porch in the Promiseland Project movement, also known as America's Front Porch," an initiative to create spaces "where all people from every walk of life, can sit together, talk, and listen to each other, as neighbors,"; and

WHEREAS, this historic, city-owned structure has been under-utilized and vacant for the period of time that the City has owned it; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has a vested interest in ensuring that all quadrants of its Downtown remain active, vibrant places where visitors and residents alike want to spend time; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has periodically had conversations about methods and strategies for discouraging Downtown property owners from letting their properties stand vacant; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin should model this practice with its own facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Castleman-Bull's location within the Palm District and adjacent to the Convention Center makes it ideally suited for events, programs, and/or a visitors center; and

 **WHEREAS**, restoration of the Castleman-Bull House will help further the goal of transforming this quadrant of Downtown into more active, vibrant pedestrian uses; and

WHEREAS, without timely restoration to the interior of the building, the City risks losing this valuable asset within the Austin Convention Center portfolio; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

The City Council, by separate action, allocates \$8 million from the Austin Convention Center funds for interior renovations of the Castleman-Bull House.

## **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to provide an updated estimate for interior renovations of the Castleman Bull House no later than November 1, 2022.

### **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager shall ensure that the forthcoming Palm District Plan proposes to integrate the Castleman-Bull House in a meaningful way. If doing so requires additional stakeholder meetings, the City Manager shall hold those meetings in October and provide a memo to Council no later than November 1, 2022.

ADOPTED:	, 2022 <b>ATTEST</b> :	
		Myrna Rios
		City Clerk