

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

2 **WHEREAS**, the City seeks to enhance public welfare, protect public safety,  
3 and promote safety for all residents by declaring that freedom from human  
4 trafficking is a fundamental human right; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of State defines human  
6 trafficking as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of  
7 a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the  
8 purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery;  
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, according to the United States Department of Homeland  
11 Security, human trafficking is one of the fastest-growing criminal industries in the  
12 world; and

13 **WHEREAS**, after drug dealing, human trafficking is tied with the illegal  
14 arms industry as the second largest criminal industry in the world today and is  
15 fueled in large part by the lucrative business of trafficking individuals for  
16 commercial sexual exploitation; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights  
18 Council have repeatedly affirmed that “human trafficking violates and impairs  
19 fundamental human rights;” and

20 **WHEREAS**, some major factors that contribute to people becoming human  
21 trafficking victims are poverty, racism, gender inequality, addictions, and mental  
22 illness; and

23 **WHEREAS**, it is often the case that migrants are victims of indebted  
24 servitude which is a form of human trafficking; and

25           **WHEREAS**, victims of extreme homelessness are sometimes targeted,  
26 trafficked, and forced into survival sex in order not to be robbed, violently  
27 assaulted, or killed; and

28           **WHEREAS**, traffickers exploit approximately \$600 million per year from  
29 victims of labor trafficking in Texas in the most at-risk industries and economic  
30 sectors, including migrant farm workers, construction workers, kitchen workers in  
31 restaurants, and landscaping service workers; and

32           **WHEREAS**, sex trafficking is a subcategory of commercial sexual  
33 exploitation, in which an individual uses different methods to control another  
34 individual to force or coerce them into providing sexual services for commercial  
35 gain; and

36           **WHEREAS**, victims of trafficking can be adults and minors; and

37           **WHEREAS**, there are many types of trafficking that can occur including  
38 sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, forced criminality, organ harvesting, and  
39 domestic servitude; and

40           **WHEREAS**, suicide rates among youth, ideation, and behavior, are much  
41 higher among those who have experienced a form of trafficking; and

42           **WHEREAS**, according to The University of Texas at Austin School of  
43 Social Work, researchers found that there are an estimated 313,000 victims of  
44 human trafficking in Texas, approximately 79,000 minors and youths are victims  
45 of sex trafficking and approximately 234,000 workers in Texas who are victims of  
46 labor trafficking; and

47           **WHEREAS**, Texas ranks second only to California in the number of human  
48 trafficking arrests; and

49           **WHEREAS**, these types of trafficking are a violation of fundamental human  
50 rights; and

51           **WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2015, Council passed Resolution No. 20151015-  
52 033, stating that (1) the City recognizes human trafficking is a human rights  
53 concern impacting Austin residents, businesses, and communities; (2) the City  
54 declares that freedom from human trafficking is a fundamental human right; and  
55 (3) the City promotes these principles and values through its policies, and  
56 continues to secure this human right on behalf of its residents; and

57           **WHEREAS**, the City is committed to ensuring there is transparency in our  
58 own business and in our approach to tackling human trafficking through our  
59 procurement and Request For Proposal process; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

61           The City Council supports the fight to end human trafficking and condemns  
62 the ongoing exploitation and profit from human trafficking.

63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

64           The City Council directs the City Manager to provide appropriate resources  
65 to vendors who do business with the City and encourage training to ensure vendors  
66 have the skills to recognize indicators of individuals experiencing homelessness at  
67 risk of human trafficking.

68           This should include, but not be limited to:

- 69           • Providing educational materials describing indicators of human  
70 exploitation and trafficking to be displayed by non-profits or vendors  
71 that enter contracts with the City related to homelessness or housing.

- Providing appropriate resources to ensure vendors who enter into contracts with the City have the skills to safely report suspicious activity to the right authorities, including those from agencies such as the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.
- Supporting victims of human trafficking through referrals to available support services.
- Displaying educational materials describing indicators of human exploitation and trafficking in permanent supportive housing, bridge shelters, or overnight shelters owned or operated in the City.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

The City hereby encourages the Texas legislature and broader community to support enabling legislation to end human trafficking and directs the City Manager to amend the City’s State and Federal Legislative Agendas to support legislation to end human trafficking, including efforts to prevent and recognize human trafficking and to provide support for victims of human trafficking.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to send copies of this resolution to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, the Austin state and federal delegations, and to the President of the United States.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2022      **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Myrna Rios  
City Clerk