# 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; and

**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), with a contribution from St. David's, 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 2014, 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

22     **WHEREAS**, the Convention Center paid for the renovation from its capital

23   budget; and

24     **WHEREAS**, according to the Jamail & Smith website, the Castleman-Bull

25   House exterior renovation was intended to create "the first fixed-front porch in the

26   Promiseland Project movement, also known as America's Front Porch," an

27   initiative to create spaces "where all people from every walk of life, can sit

28   together, talk, and listen to each other, as neighbors,"; and

29     **WHEREAS**, this historic, city-owned structure has been under-utilized and

30   vacant for the period of time that the City has owned it; and

31     **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin has a vested interest in ensuring that all

32   quadrants of its Downtown remain active, vibrant places where visitors and

33   residents alike want to spend time; and

34     **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin has periodically had conversations about

35   methods and strategies for discouraging Downtown property owners from letting

36   their properties stand vacant; and

37     **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin should model this practice with its own

38   facilities; and

39     **WHEREAS**, the Castleman-Bull's location within the Palm District and

40   adjacent to the Convention Center makes it ideally suited for events, programs,

41   and/or a visitors center; and

42     **WHEREAS**, restoration of the Castleman-Bull House will help further the

43   goal of transforming this quadrant of Downtown into more active, vibrant

44   pedestrian uses; and

45      **WHEREAS**, without timely restoration to the interior of the building, the

46  City risks losing this valuable asset within the Austin Convention Center portfolio;

47  **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

49      The City Council, by separate action, allocates $8 million from the Austin

50  Convention Center funds for interior renovations of the Castleman-Bull House for

51  Convention Center use.

52  **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

53      The City Manager is directed to provide an updated estimate for interior

54  renovations of the Castleman Bull House no later than November 1, 2022.

55  **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

56      The City Manager shall ensure that the forthcoming Palm District Plan

57  proposes to integrate the Castleman-Bull House in a meaningful way. If doing so

58  requires additional stakeholder meetings, the City Manager shall hold those

59  meetings in October and provide a memo to Council no later than November 1,

60  2022.

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62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

63    In keeping with the City's process of reviewing facility names associated

64 with the Confederacy, the City Manager shall initiate a community input process to

65 consider the appropriateness of changing the name of the structure and to review

66 alternative recommendations.


67
68
69 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2022  **ATTEST:** _____
70                                                                 Myrna Rios
71                                                                 City Clerk