

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

64 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

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

69 This should include, but not be limited to:

- 70 • Providing educational materials describing indicators of human
71 exploitation and trafficking to be displayed by non-profits or vendors
72 that enter contracts with the City related to homelessness or housing.
- 73 • Providing appropriate resources to ensure vendors who enter into
74 contracts with the City have the skills to safely report suspicious activity
75 to the right authorities, including those from agencies such as the
76 National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline and the National
77 Center for Missing and Exploited Children.
- 78 • Working with the Austin Chamber of Commerce to encourage local
79 business participation.
- 80 • Supporting victims of human trafficking through referrals to available
81 support services.
- 82 • Displaying educational materials describing indicators of human
83 exploitation and trafficking in permanent supportive housing, bridge
84 shelters, or overnight shelters owned or operated in the City, and all City
85 buildings.

86 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

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

93 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

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

98 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2022

99 **ATTEST:** _____

100 Myrna Rios
101 City Clerk