RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, Austin Energy currently provides three donation opportunities for residents through their utility bill:

- The Customer Assistance Program (Plus 1) Fund - helping residents pay their utility bill if they have an emergency; and

- The Parks & Libraries Fund - raising needed funds for parks department scholarships and library digital materials; and

- The Public Services Educational Assistance Fund (PSEA) - helping the Austin Independent School District (AISD) and other area school districts raise funds for a specified project; and

WHEREAS, the PSEA, which began as an outcome of the 2012 Austin Energy rate case, is an important and accessible way for Austin Energy customers to voluntarily contribute to public education and specifically help highly vulnerable students; and

WHEREAS, several local school districts maintain programs such as AISD's Project HELP (Homeless Education and Learning Program); and

WHEREAS, Project HELP released data from the 2017-2018 school year showing that 2,301 students were classified as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which includes children who are unsheltered or living in shelter or transitional housing, hotel/motel accommodations, or "doubled up" in insecure housing; and

WHEREAS, the current name of the PSEA and administration of contributions may not appropriately communicate the deep needs faced by some schoolchildren or how funds may be used to serve these most vulnerable; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Manager is directed to work with stakeholders, including area school districts, to rename and revise program criteria for the existing PSEA to direct contributed funds toward

27 the assistance of students experiencing homelessness and should further develop and execute a

28 plan to communicate this opportunity to Austin Energy customers.

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32 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2022 **ATTEST:** _____

33   Myrna Rios

34   City Clerk

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