

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Housing-focused Encampment Assistance Link (HEAL) initiative is a successful strategy to address homelessness in Austin, with a seventy percent success rate in moving participants into permanent housing or onto a path to permanent housing, and is slated for expansion; and

WHEREAS, the HEAL initiative is directed to address the most dangerous encampments for persons experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the HEAL initiative requires dedicated bridge shelter rooms in order to successfully transition persons experiencing homelessness to permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, the expected conversion of the Northbridge Shelter located at 7400 North IH35 to permanent supportive housing will result in the loss of 75 rooms available for the HEAL initiative; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

Council directs the City Manager to continue operating the Northbridge Shelter as a bridge shelter until a comparable replacement bridge shelter is operational. This will ensure a continued and uninterrupted capacity of approximately 150 bridge shelter rooms for unhoused residents to be served through the HEAL Initiative, 75 of which currently exist at the Northbridge Shelter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to identify strategy options, funding sources, and a timeline for acquisition, and any needed renovations, to maintain or replace

at least 150 rooms of bridge shelter for the HEAL Initiative. Such sources and strategies will include but not be limited to:

- general obligation bonds;
- American Rescue Plan Act funds;
- general fund reserves;
- the use of a public facilities corporation; and
- continuing to use the Northbridge Shelter as bridge shelter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The identification of strategies, funding sources, and timelines for each option should include:

- a. the amount of available funding;
- b. the amount of funding needed;
- c. any legal issues;
- d. the anticipated transaction costs; and
- e. the anticipated timeline and implementation process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to report strategies, options for funding, and timelines for implementation to maintain an approximately 150 bridge shelter room capacity for the HEAL Initiative to the City Council no later than February 15, 2023.

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

Myrna Rios
City Clerk