# RESOLUTION NO. <u>20221201-049</u>

**WHEREAS**, the City continues to play a key role in collaborating efforts to address the direct impacts and root causes of homelessness in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals experiencing chronic homelessness often receive services from multiple organizations and sectors (e.g. shelters, hospitals, Community-Based Organizations (also known as CBO's), jails, and Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHA's); and

**WHEREAS**, coordination and continuity of care between these organizations and sectors is difficult and time-consuming because of barriers to sharing data in a secure, timely, and easy-to-understand format; and

**WHEREAS**, anticipating and planning for the services someone needs is particularly difficult when patients move between sectors (e.g. moving between hospitals, mental health facilities, respite shelters and the local jail) or when they are discharged to the street, often due to a lack of care coordination; and

**WHEREAS**, enabling providers from different sectors to collaborate and share information in real-time will decrease individuals' time spent in crisis, improve their connections to community-based prevention services (e.g. medical homes, crisis support, harm reduction, vouchers, and routine medications), and reduce duplication of efforts so that our community's limited safety-net resources can help more people; and

**WHEREAS**, by streamlining how patient information is understood and shared, entities in Austin can provide patients with true "wraparound" services across the community while also gaining better aggregate insights into the types of

interventions and services that are helping chronically homeless individuals avoid emergency services and maintain stability; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO), Integrated Care Collaboration (ICC) and the University of Texas at Austin (UT) Dell Medical School's Department of Population Health are working to create a community-wide Data and Application Platform that would enable sharing of medical and social service data for the purpose of improving coordination of service for people experiencing homelessness; **NOW THEREFORE,**

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

The City Manager is directed to participate in efforts by ECHO, ICC, and UT Austin Dell Medical School's Department of Population Health to support, incentivize, and streamline private and secure data sharing between City-funded housing providers, clinical providers, and public health agencies, by using a Data and Application Platform, in accordance with relevant laws. Such a community-wide Data and Application Platform should:

(1) increase the quality and efficiency of care coordination and prevention services between organizations that work with individuals who are chronically homeless; and

(2) provide aggregate data reports to better understand and act on community trends in Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) needs, service gaps, and health outcomes for different clinical and social interventions.
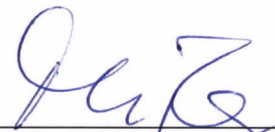
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to assist in establishing a local environment of legal and technical agreements that support adopting a centralized, secure, privacy-

preserving Data and Application Platform that links and streamlines health information across healthcare and social service sectors.

**ADOPTED:** _____December 1_____, 2022  **ATTEST:** _____

Myrna Rios
City Clerk