

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

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3 **WHEREAS**, the City is committed to ensuring the safety, reliability, and
4 resiliency of its energy grid and infrastructure; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin and the City Council is committed to
6 ensuring accountability in its energy operations during major weather events; and

7 **WHEREAS**, an exhaustive and thorough audit of energy operations is
8 necessary and required to assess Austin Energy's efficiency and effectiveness in
9 fulfilling its responsibilities to the community during major weather events,
10 ensuring that residents are not placed in compromising situations; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the City Auditor completed a comprehensive audit of the
12 City's response to Winter Storm Uri and City management has implemented and
13 continues to implement the recommendations from the audit; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the recent winter storm caused widespread power outages and
15 damage to the energy system, impacting residents and businesses throughout
16 Austin; and

17 **WHEREAS**, it is imperative to evaluate the adequacy of the City's
18 vegetation management plan, the execution of that plan, and the response to the
19 recent winter storm to identify opportunities for improvement; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the City Auditor is responsible for conducting comprehensive
21 audits to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of City
22 operations; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

26 The City Auditor is directed to conduct a comprehensive audit of Austin
27 Energy's Vegetation Management Plan and Austin Energy's response to the recent
28 winter storm.

29 The audit and review should consider, but not be limited to, the following areas:

- 30 • the adequacy of the vegetation management plan, including the
31 identification of areas for improvement;
- 32 • the execution of the vegetation management plan, including the frequency
33 and quality of inspections, pruning, and removal activities;
- 34 • the coordination efforts of Austin Energy with other City departments during
35 the recent winter storm;
- 36 • the identification of best practices and lessons learned from the recent winter
37 storm and other events;
- 38 • the allocation of resources for vegetation management and storm response,
39 including staffing, equipment, and funding;
- 40 • recommendations for improving the vegetation management plan, the
41 response to winter storms, and the overall resiliency of the energy system
42 and infrastructure; and
- 43 • a review of Austin Energy operational practices as they relate to the
44 February 2023 major winter storm event.

45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

46 The City Auditor shall provide a report to the City Council by September
47 30th, 2023, including findings and recommendations regarding the vegetation

48 management plan and Austin Energy’s response to the February 2023 major winter
49 storm event.

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

51 The City Auditor shall provide an update on the progress of the audit at the
52 May 24, 2023 Audit and Finance Committee meeting.

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57 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2023

ATTEST: _____

Myrna Rios
City Clerk

DRAFT