

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

2 **WHEREAS**, students are a vital part of Austin’s culture, economy, and
3 character, but may face unique challenges in securing affordable and accessible
4 housing; and

5 **WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the City to bring about through fair, orderly,
6 and lawful procedures, the opportunity of each person to obtain housing without
7 discrimination, consistent with federal protections, and City Code Chapter 5-1
8 further establishes that no person should be denied the opportunity to obtain
9 housing on the basis of their student status; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Strategic Housing Blueprint was adopted by the City
11 Council in 2017 as a 10-year plan to help align resources and facilitate community
12 partnerships around a single, strategic vision to create 60,000 affordable housing
13 units for those making less than 80 percent of the median family income, and
14 ensure that there is affordable housing throughout the City; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Strategic Housing Blueprint contains many sub-goals for
16 housing, but does not disaggregate the supply or demand for affordable housing
17 needed by students, who may have unique challenges and requirements; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the City’s current housing development assistance programs
19 do not specifically target support for student housing; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the City is currently developing new plans and programs that
21 may provide affordable housing opportunities for students, including the Equitable
22 Transit Oriented Development Policy Plan and the Project Connect Anti-
23 Displacement Initiative, among others; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the City created the Austin Economic Development
25 Corporation (AEDC) in October 2020 to assist the City with managing a broad
26 range of projects, including the promotion and development of affordable housing,
27 and the AEDC’s initial exploration of affordable housing projects has included
28 partnering with Huston-Tillotson University on and around their East Austin
29 campus; and

30 **WHEREAS**, the City has been able to achieve additional student housing,
31 including some time-limited affordable units, close to the University of Texas at
32 Austin main campus through the City’s University Neighborhood Overlay (UNO);
33 and

34 **WHEREAS**, the City Council adopted Resolution Nos. 20141211-115 and
35 20170511-009 directing the establishment of the College Student Commission to
36 gather the perspective of students and gain a better understanding of the
37 institutions of higher learning that they attend; and

38 **WHEREAS**, the College Student Commission passed Recommendation No.
39 20211203-3c-2 requesting a comprehensive Citywide Student Housing Needs
40 Assessment to address the availability of housing stock affordable to students and
41 the infrastructural needs of institutions on and off campuses across the City, and to
42 take all other appropriate and necessary action to determine the specific housing
43 needs of current and prospective students; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

45 The City Manager is directed to:

- 46 1. work with institutions of higher learning within the City and the
47 City’s College Student Commission to establish a City goal for

48 student housing development that can be included in the Austin
49 Housing Blueprint and any successive housing plans;

- 50 2. explore opportunities for partnerships with institutions of higher
51 learning within the City to assist with the development of dormitories
52 or private housing, with an emphasis on providing affordable access
53 for students close to campus facilities including, but not limited to, the
54 University of Texas, Huston-Tillotson University, Austin Community
55 College, and St. Edwards University;
- 56 3. review the City's experience with UNO and make land use
57 recommendations that may be applicable for other areas within the
58 City that are adjacent to campus facilities with a high need for student
59 housing; and
- 60 4. report back to the City Council with recommendations for action and
61 tools for implementation by December 31, 2023.

62
63 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2023 **ATTEST:** _____

64 Myrna Rios
65 City Clerk
66