

RESOLUTION NO. 20230223-043

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the City's current housing development assistance programs do not specifically target support for student housing; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

The City Manager is directed to:

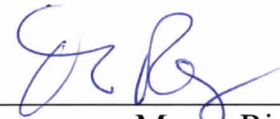
1. work with institutions of higher learning within the City and the City's College Student Commission to establish a City goal for

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

2. explore opportunities for partnerships with institutions of higher learning within the City to assist with the development of dormitories or private housing, with an emphasis on providing affordable access for students close to campus facilities including, but not limited to, the University of Texas, Huston-Tillotson University, Austin Community College, and St. Edwards University;
3. review the City's experience with UNO and make land use recommendations that may be applicable for other areas within the City that are adjacent to campus facilities with a high need for student housing;
4. explore ways to ensure students are aware of existing affordable housing options available to them through the Affordable Housing Online Tool and how to apply for them; and
5. report back to the City Council with recommendations for action, fiscal impact, and tools for implementation by December 31, 2023.

ADOPTED: February 23, 2023

ATTEST:



Myrna Rios
City Clerk