

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin is committed to promoting public safety and
4 reducing the incidence of drunk driving; and

5 **WHEREAS**, eliminating parking requirements for bars can encourage
6 alternative modes of transportation and reduce the incidence of drunk driving; and

7 **WHEREAS**, drunk driving is a serious public safety concern in the City,
8 and poses a threat to the health and wellbeing of all residents; and

9 **WHEREAS**, current parking minimums often require more parking than
10 what is currently needed and conflict with the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan’s
11 (ASMP) stated goal of a 50/50 mode share by 2039, where 50% of commuters are
12 driving alone and 50% are using other modes of transportation; and

13 **WHEREAS**, parking construction can cost a business between \$10,000 to
14 more than \$40,000 per space, a significant amount that can negatively impact a
15 business’ bottom line, or net income for a certain period; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
17 reports that alcohol-impaired crashes accounted for 28% of all traffic fatalities in
18 Texas in 2019; and

19 **WHEREAS**, current building standards require that a property of 2,500-
20 square-foot must accommodate at least 25 drivers, and bars in excess of 10,000-
21 square-feet must have sufficient room to store a minimum of 400 cars; and

22 **WHEREAS**, maintaining on-site parking requirements for bars can facilitate
23 and incentivize driving over using other forms of transportation for bar patrons,
24 and work against Austin’s efforts to reduce car dependency; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Texas is seeing a growing epidemic of drunk driving related
26 deaths, with one person in Texas dying every 7 hours and 43 minutes in a driving
27 under the influence (DUI)-alcohol related traffic crash; and

28 **WHEREAS**, in Travis County there was a 71 percent increase in DUI
29 related deaths from 2011 to 2021; and

30 **WHEREAS**, Texas has also seen an uptick in driving while intoxicated
31 (DWI) arrests, with a total of 2,554 DWI arrests in the City in 2022; and

32 **WHEREAS**, the City has made efforts to reduce drunk driving through
33 public awareness campaigns, increased police presence, and transportation
34 alternatives, such as ride-sharing and public transit; and

35 **WHEREAS**, studies have shown that reducing parking requirements for
36 bars and restaurants can help promote responsible drinking and decrease the
37 incidence of drunk driving; and

38 **WHEREAS**, decreasing parking requirements for bars and restaurants could
39 also encourage the growth of local businesses and increase economic activity in the
40 City; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

42 City Council initiates amendments to City Code Title 25 (*Land*
43 *Development*) necessary to eliminate non-accessible parking requirements for
44 cocktail lounge use.

45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

46 City Council directs the City Manager to process Code amendments
47 necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth in this resolution and return with a
48 draft ordinance for City Council consideration by October 19, 2023.

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51 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2023 **ATTEST:** _____

52 Myrna Rios
53 City Clerk
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