

**RESOLUTION NO. 20230504-056**

**WHEREAS**, Central Texas has been identified as one of the most flash-flood prone areas in the United States by the National Weather Service and flash flooding is the number one natural disaster threat in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, there are 65 watersheds that are either wholly or partially within the city limits of Austin and all are susceptible to recurring flash flooding; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's commitment to addressing watershed conditions dates back to 1974 with the adoption of the Waterway Development Ordinance that limited development in the 25-year floodplain and required new developments to identify appropriate erosion controls; and

**WHEREAS**, following the 1981 Memorial Day flood which resulted in 13 deaths and significant property damage, the City implemented a new drainage charge to provide funding for an expanded storm water management program; and

**WHEREAS**, flood events associated with the Onion, Williamson, Shoal, Walnut, and Barton Creek areas along with flooding citywide and along the Colorado River system and its associated dam infrastructure serve to remind our community of the importance of storm water management and the risks to residents and threat to public health, safety, and property if not properly managed; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 20150604-044 created The Flood Mitigation Task Force (FMTF) to gather information and develop recommendations related to citywide and area flooding and its impacts to property, public safety, and City finances, with an emphasis on flood mitigation solutions and funding options; and

**WHEREAS**, the combined flood issues of many citywide properties with aging infrastructure, along with general creek and river flooding problems, have very high infrastructure costs associated with them, with estimates being in the hundreds of millions of dollars and associated flood damage to property and subsequent buyouts posing additional millions in costs; and

**WHEREAS**, annually Austin hosts a significant number of visitors and expects 750,000 new residents by 2040, many lacking knowledge of the flash flood risks in Central Texas and its potential impacts to life and property; and

**WHEREAS**, recent unprecedented winter storms have posed a threat to life and property as well as unprecedented tree damage leading to an accumulation of debris in creeks; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 21, 2023, President Biden declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Texas and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by a severe winter storm from January 30, 2023, to February 2, 2023, including Travis County; and

**WHEREAS**, a storm on the night of April 20, 2023, led to the flooding of over thirty houses in Austin, a flooding event likely exacerbated by additional damage and vegetation debris resulting from the January 30, 2023, to February 2, 2023 winter storm; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to accomplish the following within 14 days:

- (A) Identify short-term and long-term federal, state, county, and City financial resources and tools to aid those affected by the April 20, 2023, flooding as well as any others affected by recent flooding events and the January 2023 winter storm.

- (B) Recommend a citywide outreach strategy to ensure all those affected by the flooding and storms are made aware of the resources in multiple languages and receive help applying for aid.
- (C) Evaluate the possibility of allocating funding from the City to support flood victims in addressing damage- and disaster-incurred expenses if no other sufficient resources are available.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to return to Council on May 30, 2023, with an accelerated action plan for appropriate City departments, including Austin Resource Recovery, the Watershed Protection Department, and the Parks and Recreation Department, to assess and clean up creeks of vegetative debris in order to mitigate flood risk.

**ADOPTED:** May 04, 2023 **ATTEST:** Stephanie Hall for  
Myrna Rios  
City Clerk