

WHEREAS, Austin’s medical first responders are key to advancing the City’s public safety and public health initiatives and play an important role in our local healthcare ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer (OCMO), Austin launched one of the first Paramedic Practitioner programs in the country in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Paramedic Practitioners deliver care that can help bridge the difference between critical care services and services that do not result in a transport by an ambulance; and

WHEREAS, as noted by the City in 2022, this service helps to relieve emergency room congestion and takes some of the workload off Emergency Medical Service (EMS) responders by freeing up ambulances and fire trucks to focus on critical care emergency calls that require transportation to the hospital; and

WHEREAS, this program also helps manage growth and response times for both the first responders and for vulnerable Austin-Travis County residents; and

22 **WHEREAS**, this program can also save money, improve training and
23 response times, and enhance recruitment and retention efforts; and

24 **WHEREAS**, OCMO has estimated that the Paramedic Practitioner Program
25 saved approximately 840 hours in ambulance time, which amounts to
26 approximately \$1.05 million in savings, and is particularly important given the
27 significant staff shortages in EMS; and

28 **WHEREAS**, to continue the success of the critical work of this program and
29 OCMO's other duties, OCMO and EMS require additional resources for the
30 Paramedic Practitioner Service Line; and

31 **WHEREAS**, we currently employ four Paramedic Practitioners and would
32 need four more to expand to 24 / 7 coverage; and

33 **WHEREAS**, another program that results in savings to our community is
34 the Collaborative Care Communication Center (C4), an EMS program that
35 responds to low-acuity calls from patients that do not require transport by an
36 ambulance or to emergency room; and

37 **WHEREAS**, this EMS program helps provide appropriate triage, resulting
38 in cost savings to the City, patients, and broader healthcare system; and

39 **WHEREAS**, the C4 program allows our ambulances to be ready and
40 available for more extreme health emergencies; and
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42 **WHEREAS**, this program also plays an important role in our opioid
43 response efforts; and

44 **WHEREAS**, during natural disasters or high call volume events, the C4
45 program plays a pivotal role in the 911 system; and

46 **WHEREAS**, the C4 program currently operates from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every
47 day of the week; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

49 The City Council recognizes the importance of the Paramedic
50 Practitioners and the Collaborative Care Communication Center (C4) and seeks
51 to expand these programs to operate 24 / 7, and the City Manager is directed to
52 achieve this goal no later than Fiscal Year 2024-25.

53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

54 The City Manager is directed to engage other relevant entities and
55 stakeholders in the local medical system, including but not limited to Central
56 Health and our local hospitals, to determine if these entities are able and willing to
57 contribute to these critical, cost-saving investments in our local healthcare
58 ecosystem and is further directed to explore other opportunities for further
59 collaboration and cost recovery. Should these conversations regarding funding and
60 expanding the Paramedic Practitioner and C4 programs be fruitful, the City
61 Manager is directed to return to Council with a budget amendment for approval

and any related agreement as soon as possible.

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

Myrna Rios
City Clerk

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