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ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AS BARTON SPRINGS UNIVERSITY DAY; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENSURE THE EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITH AN EMPHASIS ON ENABLING AUSTIN AREA HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS TO ATTEND; APPRECIATING AND ENCOURAGING THE CONTINUED PARTICIPATION AND COOPERATION OF CITY STAFF IN WORKING WITH LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS TO MAKE THE EVENT SUCCESSFUL; AND WAIVING CERTAIN FEES FOR BARTON SPRINGS POOL ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023.

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

PART 1. Council finds that:

- (A) The City Council celebrates Barton Springs and educating the public on the value and importance of preserving and protecting this most unique and natural resource in central Austin.
- (B) To provide future generations a better understanding about the Springs' nature, their fragility, and what is needed to sustain them, the Council has supported Barton Springs University as it has evolved and grown from its beginnings as Barton Springs Fest on May 23, 2013.
- (C) The pilot Barton Springs University project successfully increased participation in outdoor learning for students, educators, and citizens, with attendance increasing from approximately 450 high school students initially to approximately 700 students in its second year in 2016 and to 900 students in 2017.
- (D) The continuation of Barton Springs University as an independent annual event will sustain outdoor learning in Austin for years to come and provide a basic literacy in water resources, freshwater ecosystems, and water policy for Austin area students and the public.
- (E) Accommodation for this activity should be supported as an ongoing annual event.
- (F) The date for this year's Barton Springs University has been set for Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

- (G) Learning sessions at Barton Springs University are planned to run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on that day, with City experts again leading several of the learning sessions.

PART 2. Council enacts the following:

- (A) The City Council hereby proclaims Tuesday, September 19, 2023, as Barton Springs University Day.
- (B) The City Council directs the City Manager to ensure that this annual event is open to the public with an emphasis on enabling Austin area high school and college students to learn from experts on the science, policy challenges, and historic and cultural aspects of Barton Springs, the Edwards Aquifer, and the waters of central Texas.
- (C) The City Council appreciates and encourages the continued participation and cooperation of Parks and Recreation Department, Watershed Protection Department, and Austin Water Utility staff in working with the Save Our Springs Alliance, the University of Texas Environmental Science Institute, Austin Independent School District, the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, the Save Barton Creek Association, and others in making the Barton Springs University events successful as days of outdoor learning and fun at Barton Springs year over year.
- (D) The City Council waives certain entry fees for Barton Springs Pool to support Barton Springs University Day on September 19, 2023, as follows:

Fees Waived or Reimbursed (Parks and Recreation Department):

\$ 5,000.00	Pool Entry Fees
\$ 5,000.00	Total Fees Waived

PART 3. This ordinance takes effect on _____.

PASSED AND APPROVED

_____, 2023 § _____
§ _____

Kirk Watson
Mayor

APPROVED: _____ **ATTEST:** _____
Anne L. Morgan Myrna Rios
City Attorney City Clerk