## RESOLUTION NO.

**WHEREAS**, the City has observed an ongoing trend in student housing developments rented by the bedroom where some bedrooms do not have access to a window; and

WHEREAS, windowless rooms have been permitted and constructed throughout developments in West Campus, including 222 bedrooms, or 44 percent of rooms, in the Ion Austin, and 115 bedrooms, or 22 percent of rooms, in the Legacy on Rio; and

**WHEREAS**, studies have shown that people with access to natural light in bedrooms, offices, and hospital rooms have improved mortality rates, productivity, sleep, and mental health; and

WHEREAS, a research study in April of 2023 surveyed 152 University of Texas at Austin undergraduates and found that students lacking a window in their bedroom reported lower satisfaction on a number of well-being indicators—including physical health, sleep, depression, and productivity—than students with access to a window; and

**WHEREAS**, the proliferation of windowless bedrooms are occurring throughout the City due to allowances in the City's Building Code; and

WHEREAS, other cities, such as New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Washington D.C., have amended their building codes to include minimum glazing requirements to prevent windowless bedrooms; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

City Council initiates amendments to Title 25 (*Land Development*), to require access to natural light for all sleeping rooms in new buildings. These requirements

should allow enough flexibility to creatively provide natural light and minimize impacts to affordability.

## BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

City Council encourages the City Manager to consider the proposed language in Attachment A when proposing code amendments and to consider stakeholder feedback, industry practices, and requirements.

## BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to process the amendments necessary to accomplish the goals in this Resolution and return with a draft ordinance for Council consideration no later than August of 2024.

ADOPTED:	, 2023	ATTEST:	
			Myrna Rios
			City Clerk