

**RESOLUTION NO. 20230831-137**

**WHEREAS**, the City and Travis County (the County) have a long history of collaboration and partnership on joint initiatives to serve the needs of their residents, including the establishment of the Austin/Travis County Sobering Center, participation in the Waller Creek Tax Reinvestment Financing Zone, and the ongoing operations and maintenance of the Travis County Exposition Center; and

**WHEREAS**, a significant way the two entities can work together is to collaborate on joint planning to maximize the efficient use of land and leverage each other's resources to provide services for both City and County residents; and

**WHEREAS**, simultaneously with the consideration of this Resolution, the City Council and the Travis County Commissioner's Court (Commissioners Court) are considering a similar resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and the County have jointly expressed a strong desire to address historic underinvestment, persistent disparities, and structural inequities in northeast Austin and in eastern Travis County; and

**WHEREAS**, the North East Austin District area of the Eastern Crescent (the District, or the North East Austin District), is comprised mostly of nine census tracts—22.01, 22.20, 22.21, 22.22, 22.11, 22.13, 22.14, and variously sized portions of tracts 22.19, 22.14, and 22.15 (originally five census tracts, prior to the 2020 redistricting of census tracts); and

**WHEREAS**, the District is bounded by U.S. Highway 183 to the west, U.S. Highway 290 to the north, Toll Road 130 to the east, and mostly FM 969 to the south, and is lacking in critical infrastructure, has seen little financial investment, and has been identified as an area at risk of gentrification; and

**WHEREAS**, 30.4 percent of the North East Austin District is located in the City extra-territorial jurisdiction (the ETJ) as well as in Travis County; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has previously directed the City Manager to coordinate, to the greatest extent possible, with the County on the North East Austin District Plan to ensure synergy between the North East Austin District Plan and the County's long range planning efforts; and specifically, for the areas of the North East Austin District within the ETJ, the City Manager has been directed to ensure compatibility with relevant County policies, such as the County's public improvement district policy—Chapter 481 of the Travis County Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the objective of the North East Austin District Plan is to review past and present inequities as well as disinvestments in services and infrastructure within the District, address them, and provide guidance for: retaining existing residents and businesses, creating and maintaining great neighborhoods, spurring economic development, creating and retaining stable jobs that pay a living wage, improving connectivity, provide high-quality public spaces, and meeting community needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the North East Austin District Plan is being led by the City's Planning Department, which partners with the community, other City departments, and partner stakeholders to shape a more equitable Austin and uses planning disciplines and affordable housing resources to prevent the displacement of people, cultures, and services; and

**WHEREAS**, the County is considering a Marshall Plan for eastern Travis County to identify quality public investments and funding mechanisms to support communities in eastern Travis County that have faced displacement and systemic racism that has left people of color falling further behind economically, made them

more likely to be in a generational cycle of poverty and less resilient to natural disasters, weather events, and national or personal economic or health crises; and

**WHEREAS**, working with community partners, consultants, and stakeholders on the Marshall Plan, County staff will work on the key tasks needed to develop a fiscally sound program that can provide meaningful community benefits in a timely manner; and initial work will include identifying the geographic area, establishing the baseline value, modeling potential revenue or funding scenarios, identifying potential federal funding, addressing any legal issues that may arise, and establishing a project and finance plan that is both data driven and community informed by a meaningful public engagement strategy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Marshall Plan will be led by the County's Economic Development and Strategic Investment Office within the Planning and Budget Office's Equity Framework, and County staff plans to create a community engagement design that provides community leadership by providing recommendations, create a cross-County work group to address cross-cutting issues, align work product, and reduce duplication by building upon plans, engagement, and projects currently underway or completed; and

**WHEREAS**, the County wants to work collaboratively through coordination with local partners for data collection, research and financial modeling, engagement of the directly impacted communities, engagement of local universities, identification of project and funding collaboration opportunities to create a larger impact, and implementation of holistic solutions which focus on all aspects of quality-of-life factors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Travis County Exposition Center is located on City land leased to the County via a 50-year lease that expires at the end of 2033; and



**WHEREAS**, the Travis County Exposition Center is an important cultural and tourist attraction for the City and its surrounding community and hosts annual events such as the Star of Texas Fair, Rodeo Austin, races, and triathlons, as well as livestock, auto, and craft shows; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has identified the need to expand and improve the Travis County Exposition Center, as well as to secure a longer-term solution related to facility ownership so that the Travis County Exposition Center can continue to host events and attract cultural tourism to the City and the County; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council Resolution Nos. 20201112-043 and 20220324-056 directed the City Manager to convene stakeholders in a planning effort for the North East Austin District, with knowledge and support of the Colony Park Sustainable Community Plan (Colony Park Community Plan); and

**WHEREAS** the Colony Park Community Plan was initiated in 2012 and incorporates significant community engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, per the City Council resolutions, the resulting North East Austin District Plan should be informed also by Project Connect and the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan and should establish a cohesive vision and strategic plan for Walter E. Long Park, Colony Park, Decker Creek Power Station, John Treviño Jr. Metro Park, the Travis County Exposition Center, and commercial development at the former Freescale campus; and

**WHEREAS**, Colony Park is a community within the North East Austin District, and the Colony Park Community Plan, and its holistic Eight Community Pillars consisting of mobility and connectivity, community safety, health care and wellness resources, open spaces and parks, healthy foods, economic vitality, life-

long learning opportunities, and workforce housing, along with City and County resources, address the inequities and disinvestments in the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colony Park Community Plan will be a critical model for the co-creation of the North East Austin District Plan, and the participation of existing core community organizations such as but not limited to Colony Park Association Inc., d/b/a Colony Park Neighborhood Association, Colony Park/Lakeside CDC, Equidad ATX, Austin Revitalization, and RBI will be critical for successful collaboration within the North East Austin District Plan area; and

**WHEREAS**, the North East Community Advisory Committee will be a group of community residents, stakeholders, and organizations comprised of faith-based networks, neighborhood associations, homeowner's associations, mobile home community representatives, local and small businesses and employers, school districts, arts and music non-profits and collectives, housing developers, and other community advocacy groups, convened to share their lived and professional experiences, knowledge, relationships, and other resources for co-creation of holistic, sustainable, transformative, and equitable community development;  
**NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

City Council directs the City Manager to take the following actions:

- A) Negotiate and bring forward to the City Council an interlocal agreement further identifying collaborative work, deliverables, performance metrics, and shared funding with the County for a collaborative North East Planning District, and allocating the funding identified for the North East Austin District Plan for this collaborative effort.

- B) Co-create a collaborative area planning effort between the City, the County and other interested local governments and entities in order to establish the collaborative North East Planning District to serve as a pilot program with potential for expansion to southeastern Travis County as a component of the County's Marshall Plan.
- C) Support a community-led vision for northeastern Travis County informed by past efforts and plans that are within the boundaries identified in the North East Austin District Plan, and expand them based on data, to shape a holistic vision for northeastern Travis County.
- D) Coordinate a collaborative engagement plan for areas in northeastern Travis County and co-create a North East Community Advisory Committee including existing stakeholders such as but not limited to Colony Park Association Inc., d/b/a Colony Park Neighborhood Association, Colony Park/Lakeside CDC, Equidad ATX, Austin Revitalization, RBI, and new stakeholders.
- E) Create an interdepartmental City services work group that collaborates with a cross-County department work group on a frequency to be determined.
- F) Develop a collaborative workplan that includes improvements for infrastructure, affordable housing, economic redevelopment, and other community investments in northeastern Travis County that augments, not supplants, any investments made or anticipated by other governmental entities or other funding sources, and may include leveraging publicly owned land, federal funding, and other

programmatic resources to support the goals of the collaborative  
North East Planning District.

G) Provide quarterly updates on progress to the Housing and Planning  
Committee.

**ADOPTED:** August 31, 2023 **ATTEST:** Stephanie Hall for  
Myrna Rios  
City Clerk