

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

2 **WHEREAS**, most areas in the City will experience a total solar eclipse on
3 the afternoon of Monday, April 8, 2024; and

4 **WHEREAS**, a total solar eclipse is one of nature’s rarest and most
5 wondrous phenomena; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the last total solar eclipse visible in the area where Austin is
7 located occurred in the 14th century and the next opportunity after 2024 will occur
8 in the 24th century; and

9 **WHEREAS**, a total solar eclipse presents a unique opportunity to unite our
10 community in a shared experience; and

11 **WHEREAS**, people in portions of southeast and east Austin are not in the
12 path of totality and must travel to see it; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the City must plan now to ensure that residents know the
14 eclipse is happening and have the opportunity to fully experience it; and

15 **WHEREAS**, supplies, transportation, information, a break from work and
16 public information are needed to help people fully experience the eclipse; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the next total solar eclipse over the contiguous United States
18 will be far from Austin in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota on August 23,
19 2044; and

20 **WHEREAS**, most people will never have the opportunity to see a total solar
21 eclipse; and

23 **WHEREAS**, a total solar eclipse is a profoundly different experience from a
24 partial solar eclipse; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the City wants as many Austin residents as possible to have
26 the opportunity to fully experience the eclipse; and

27 **WHEREAS**, eclipse watchers are planning to travel from across the globe
28 to witness the eclipse and many will come to Austin; and

29 **WHEREAS**, many people in the City remain unaware of the upcoming total
30 solar eclipse, underscoring the need for public outreach; and

31 **WHEREAS**, the City has a responsibility to help keep the public and our
32 employees safe during the eclipse and that requires thorough and advance
33 planning; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

35 The City Manager is directed to create and execute a plan to support a
36 positive, safe, and inclusive experience for viewing the total eclipse on April 8,
37 2024, in Austin.

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

39 The City Manager is directed to address information, access, safety, and
40 celebration in the plan, as described below, and to present the plan to Council by
41 February 1, 2024.

42 In formulating the plan, the City Manager should consider convening an
43 interdepartmental working group and collaborating with partners such as Visit
44

45 Austin, Austin Parks Foundation, school districts, and other area governments. The
46 City Manager should consider consulting with cities that were in the paths of the
47 October 14, 2023, annular solar eclipse or the August 21, 2017, total solar eclipse,
48 as well as with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Texas
49 Division of Emergency Management, and the Federal Emergency Management
50 Agency.

51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

52 The City Manager should address the following four key areas in the plan:

53 **INFORMATION:**

- 54 ● Launch a campaign to raise awareness among the general public, other
55 local governments, businesses, neighborhood associations, and other
56 institutions.
- 57 ● Prepare and publicize basic information such as timing, map, and safety
58 information in multiple languages, as well as providing information
59 regarding the timing and length of totality at key locations.
- 60 ● Provide safety and other information via text using community warning
61 systems such as Warn Central Texas so the public is not caught off guard
62 when the sky suddenly darkens in the afternoon.
- 63 ● Engage experts at key sites to explain what's happening and answer
64 questions. These may include area university faculty, graduate students,
65 and amateur astronomers affiliated with organizations like the Austin
66 Astronomical Society.

68 ACCESS:

- 69 ● Designate park areas in the path of totality where people can gather for
70 shared viewing.
- 71 ● Coordinate with Capital Metro to offer shuttle service for people who are
72 not in the path of totality or who would like to travel to see a longer
73 totality.
- 74 ● Work with the Austin Convention Center, Visit Austin, and the
75 hospitality industry to plan for the influx of visitors.
- 76 ● Develop a strategy to enable City employees to experience the eclipse to
77 the greatest extent possible.
- 78 ● Provide essential resources for neighborhoods interested in planning safe
79 and informative eclipse-related events.

80 SAFETY:

- 81 ● Disseminate eclipse information in multiple languages and through
82 multiple alerting systems, including text messages, to make sure people
83 are both aware of the pending eclipse and informed about eclipse safety.
- 84 ● Educate the public and City employees regarding the need to use a
85 specific, certified filter, such as eclipse glasses, to look at the sun
86 EXCEPT during totality, when it is safe to look at the sun because it is
87 fully obscured by the moon and only the corona of gases surrounding it
88 are visible.

- 89 ● Make certified eclipse viewing glasses available at each official City
90 viewing site and ensure staff and speaker systems are on hand to assist
91 and guide viewers during the count-down.
- 92 ● Anticipate and plan for increased demands on the City's 911 call center
93 and police, emergency medical services and transportation staff.
- 94 ● Anticipate potential changes or disruptions to flight patterns that may
95 impact Austin Bergstrom International Airport.
- 96 ● Work with State emergency management services and other relevant
97 regional governments to ensure seamless coordination and
98 communication.
- 99 ● Implement key lessons learned from other cities in the paths of the total
100 solar eclipse in August 2017 and the annular solar eclipse in October
101 2023.

102 CELEBRATION:

- 103 ● Host educational and viewing events at City-owned venues such as
104 libraries and parks.
- 105 ● Coordinate with Visit Austin, the hospitality industry, and the Tourism
106 Public Improvement District to host celebratory events.
- 107 ● Connect with county governments, local school districts and institutions
108 of higher education, and other organizations to support a shared,
109 community-wide experience.
- 110 ● Encourage local artists and arts groups to celebrate the eclipse through
111 newly created music, visual art, dance, poetry, and other forms of art.

- Amplify events organized by other groups.
- Build on lessons learned by City departments during the annular solar eclipse on October 14, 2023.

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

Myrna Rios
City Clerk

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