**RESOLUTION NO.** 1 2 **WHEREAS**, the City recognizes the increasing prevalence of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), commonly referred to as drones, in the Austin area 3 airspace; and 4 5 **WHEREAS**, drones have seen a significant increase in usage across various 6 sectors, posing new challenges to public safety, privacy, and security; and WHEREAS, drone technology has evolved significantly, presenting both 7 opportunities and challenges for public safety, privacy, and security; and 8 WHEREAS, the City is committed to ensuring the responsible and safe 9 operation of drones within our city limits; and 10 WHEREAS, the proliferation of drones has led to concerns regarding their 11 potential misuse, including unauthorized surveillance, interference with emergency 12 response operations, and threats to critical infrastructure; and 13 WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is responsible for 14 regulating drone operations within the national airspace, but there is a growing 15 16 need for comprehensive and updated regulations to address evolving technology and emerging threats; and 17

WHEREAS, the FAA currently issues Temporary Flight Restrictions
(TFRs), which apply to drones and other aircraft, for a select list of major sports
events but not for other mass gatherings; and

WHEREAS, Austin hosts major sports events such Formula One, Moto GP
and Major League Soccer, which are not currently listed as sports events eligible
for TFRs; and

WHEREAS, local governments play a crucial role in ensuring that drone
operations align with the needs and safety of their communities, making it essential
to collaborate with state and federal authorities to enhance regulations; and

WHEREAS, the City has witnessed an increase in drone-related incidents,
emphasizing the necessity for stronger regulations to protect the safety and wellbeing of its residents; and

WHEREAS, public concerns about drone noise disturbances impacting the
quality of life of Austin residents have risen necessitating regulations to mitigate
these disturbances; and

WHEREAS, the protection of sensitive areas, such as schools, public
facilities, and critical infrastructure from potential drone threats is paramount to
maintaining public safety and security; and

WHEREAS, the rapid evolution of drone technology requires updated
regulations to ensure that emerging risks and challenges are adequately addressed;
and

WHEREAS, effective drone regulations should strike a balance between
promoting innovation and safeguarding the public interest; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City to work collaboratively with
state and federal authorities to develop, advocate for, and implement stronger
drone regulations that address local concerns while respecting technological
advancements and innovation; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to collaborate with state and federal authorities
to enhance drone regulations that address local concerns; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

48 Council amends its state and federal legislative agendas to include
49 supporting legislation related to drone use that enhances public safety, security,
50 and quality of life.

## 51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

52 The City Manager is directed to work with elected representatives at the 53 state and federal levels to advocate for the following priorities:

- A. Enhanced regulation of permanent flight restrictions near critical infrastructure, public facilities, a broader set of sports facilities, and emergency response operations to ensure public safety and security, with a particular emphasis on preventing weaponization of UAS and other low-flying aircraft.
- B. The implementation of geofencing technology and other measures,
  including public awareness of these restricted areas, to prevent drones
  from flying in restricted or prohibited areas, thereby reducing the risk
  of unauthorized surveillance or malicious activities.
- C. Stricter enforcement of existing regulations related to drone
  registration, operator certification, and compliance with FAA
  guidelines, including measures to detect and prevent weaponization.
- D. Developing and implementing a comprehensive noise mitigation plan
  to address noise concerns from drone operations within our city,
  ensuring that public safety and quality of life are not compromised.

69	E.	Establishing a federal process to allow applicants to request temporary
70		prohibitions of unmanned aircraft operations in close proximity to a
71		large outdoor public gathering for a specified period of time.
72		Applicants eligible to submit petitions for consideration shall be a
73		credentialed law enforcement organization or public safety
74		organization otherwise recognized by a federal, state, local, tribal, or
75		territorial governmental entity.
76	F.	Lowering attendance thresholds of mass gatherings for the issuance of
77		TFRs to include wider range of sporting and non-sporting events, and
78		strictly prohibiting UAS or other aircraft operations unrelated to the
79		event or public safety during those events to ensure the safety and
80		security of event attendees.
81 <b>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:</b>		
82	The City Manager is directed to send copies of this Resolution to the FAA	
83	and Austin's state and federal legislative delegations to notify them of the City's	
84	priorities and concerns related to drone regulation.	
85		
86	ADOPTEI	
87		Myrna Rios
88		City Clerk