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

27 **WHEREAS**, the City has witnessed an increase in drone-related incidents,
28 emphasizing the necessity for stronger regulations to protect the safety and well-
29 being of its residents; and

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

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

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

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

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

45 **WHEREAS**, the City seeks to collaborate with state and federal authorities
46 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:

- 54 A. Enhanced regulation of permanent flight restrictions near critical
55 infrastructure, public facilities, a broader set of sports facilities, and
56 emergency response operations to ensure public safety and security,
57 with a particular emphasis on preventing weaponization of UAS and
58 other low-flying aircraft.
- 59 B. The implementation of geofencing technology and other measures,
60 including public awareness of these restricted areas, to prevent drones
61 from flying in restricted or prohibited areas, thereby reducing the risk
62 of unauthorized surveillance or malicious activities.
- 63 C. Stricter enforcement of existing regulations related to drone
64 registration, operator certification, and compliance with FAA
65 guidelines, including measures to detect and prevent weaponization.
- 66 D. Developing and implementing a comprehensive noise mitigation plan
67 to address noise concerns from drone operations within our city,
68 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 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

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.

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

87 Myrna Rios
88 City Clerk