RESOLUTION NO. 20240118-045

WHEREAS, the City is committed to promoting the safety, well-being, and recovery of survivors of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, survivors of domestic violence often face ongoing threats to their safety and well-being, including from abusers who may have access to their dwelling units; and

WHEREAS, adding security devices, such as cameras or new door locks, can improve security or help capture evidence of wrongdoing; and

WHEREAS, survivors may encounter barriers, including financial constraints, that prevent them from adding new security measures at their home; and

WHEREAS, increasing the budget of the Austin Police Department (APD) to provide improved security for domestic violence survivors who face ongoing threats from their assailants will enhance public safety; and

WHEREAS, an additional budget allocation could address needs of some domestic violence survivors to immediately secure their homes by providing access to security devices; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

The City Manager is directed to explore additional funding options, including, but not limited to a mid-year budget amendment to the City's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget (Ordinance No. 20230816-008) or a grant program to increase the APD Victim Services emergency assistance budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The additional funding should be allocated to providing security devices, including but not limited to, security cameras or new door locks to domestic violence survivors who face ongoing threats of violence from their assailants or other additional emergency needs identified by staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager shall collaborate with stakeholders and members of the community to gather information that may be important to help determine the amount of increased funding needed, including but not limited to, the estimated number of domestic violence survivors who may benefit from additional City-provided resources such as security cameras and new door locks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager shall produce a memorandum and report back to the Public Safety Committee by March 29, 2024, with recommendations.

ADOPTED: January 18, 2024 ATTEST:

Myrna Rios City Clerk