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25 **WHEREAS**, participation in soccer not only promotes physical fitness but
26 also instills valuable life skills such as teamwork, communication, discipline,
27 perseverance, and resilience, transcending cultural and social boundaries and
28 enriching the lives of players; and

29 **WHEREAS**, despite the enthusiasm for soccer, challenges such as access to
30 soccer fields, the cost of leagues and field maintenance, and a lack of
31 transportation options have been identified by various stakeholders as major
32 barriers to expanding access to soccer programming in Austin; and

33 **WHEREAS**, the lack of soccer field space in Austin makes it difficult to
34 accommodate the city's numerous leagues and organizations, hosting tournaments
35 and generating local revenue; and

36 **WHEREAS**, soccer is a source of economic development for the city,
37 attracting visitors, fostering local business opportunities, and contributing to the
38 city's vibrant sports landscape; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

40 The City Manager is instructed to begin a planning process to establish
41 Austin as a Soccer City with the aim of promoting community benefits and
42 economic growth and to cultivate a robust soccer culture and pipeline. As part of
43 this planning process, the City Manager is directed to provide a report to Council
44 that includes the following elements:

- 45 • An inventory of public land owned by the City, County, and school
46 districts that is used or could be utilized to play soccer. The inventory
47 should assess the conditions of the land, which fields are suitable for
48 what level of play, the costs to adapt and/or maintain the land for

49 soccer purposes, and which fields currently provide open access to the
50 public.

- 51 • An inventory of existing soccer programming, including soccer
52 leagues, community and youth soccer programs.
- 53 • An assessment of all City of Austin Park Vision Plans to identify
54 opportunities for soccer field development for all levels of play.
- 55 • An assessment of soccer fields and programming needs based on the
56 size and population of our City and the number of existing soccer
57 leagues, community, and youth soccer programs. This assessment
58 should include recommendations to help address the existing need for
59 soccer fields and soccer programming, including:
 - 60 ○ Fostering collaboration between the City, County, school
61 districts and the soccer leagues and organizations in Austin.
 - 62 ○ Seeking public and private partnerships to expand public access
63 to soccer facilities and programs and to attract new soccer
64 sporting events to the City, including considering establishing
65 an interest group coalition with appropriate stakeholder
66 organizations.
 - 67 ○ Ways to increase the number of fields and parks that can be
68 utilized to play soccer at all levels of play, including additional
69 mini-pitches and fields for professional levels of play and
70 tournaments.
 - 71 ○ Ways to expand the Parks and Recreation Department Financial
72 Assistance for Youth Programs to increase program
73 participation, including outreach efforts to promote the program
74 and ways for residents to donate to the PARD Financial Aid
75 Program.

76 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

77 The City Manager is directed to work with the Parks and Recreation
78 Department to update its athletics programs webpage to include a list of all
79 publicly available soccer fields and mini pitches and any other relevant soccer-
80 related information.

81 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

82 The City Manager should return to Council with the public land inventory,
83 the needs analysis and recommendations to address challenges by September 2024.
84 The City Manager is further directed to review whether the recommendations to
85 address the identified challenges, including park maintenance and soccer field
86 development, could be funded through general fund expenditures and/or bond
87 instruments to be approved at a future election.

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90 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2024 **ATTEST:** _____

91 Myrna Rios
92 City Clerk
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