

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

2 **WHEREAS**, in February of 2024, a deadly crash occurred at a local
3 hospital, highlighting the need for enhanced safety measures at medical facilities;
4 and

5 **WHEREAS**, a KXAN investigation found that similar incidents have
6 happened more than 300 times across the country in the last decade, with 28,014
7 crashes tracked involving any storefront since 2014; and

8 **WHEREAS**, compared to other commercial buildings, medical facilities
9 present additional, unique risk factors due to drivers potentially being on
10 medication, in distress, injured, or suffering from medical emergencies; and

11 **WHEREAS**, vertical security posts, called bollards, can prevent vehicles
12 from crashing into buildings or people, thereby enhancing safety; and

13 **WHEREAS**, many hospitals in Central Texas do not use bollards at their
14 entrances; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the installation of crash-rated bollards at hospital entrances can
16 save lives and prevent injuries; and

17 **WHEREAS**, no state or federal regulations currently require installation of
18 bollards; and

19 **WHEREAS**, City Council aims to ensure the safety of patients, families,
20 employees, and visitors at medical facilities; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

25 City Council initiates amendments to City Code, including Title 25
26 (*Land Development*), to require the installation of crash-rated bollards or other
27 similar safety barriers to prevent vehicle-into-building crashes at the pedestrian
28 entrances of medical facilities with nearby vehicular traffic.

29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

30 When proposing amendments initiated by this Resolution, the City Manager
31 is directed to explore:

- 32 1. the feasibility of requiring safety barriers in public right-of-way areas
33 adjacent to medical facilities to enhance pedestrian safety and prevent
34 vehicle crashes;
- 35 2. whether permit applications to expand, remodel, or upgrade existing
36 facilities can trigger this requirement to install safety bollards;
- 37 3. incentives for existing facilities to voluntarily comply with new City
38 requirements to install bollards;
- 39 4. recommendations for the City's state and federal legislative agenda; and
40 5. any other necessary changes that achieve the objectives of this resolution.

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

42 The City Manager is directed to engage with stakeholders, including medical
43 facility operators, with the goal of bringing about compliance with any new
44 requirements City Council adopts.
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47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

48 The City Manager is directed to bring forward proposed changes that
49 achieve the objectives of this Resolution to City Council by October 31, 2024.

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51 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2024 **ATTEST:** _____

52 Myrna Rios
53 City Clerk
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DRAFT