



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Jesús Garza, Interim City Manager 

DATE: January 29, 2024

SUBJECT: **Staff Update on Resilience Office Staffing and Resilience Hubs Activities**

On January 22, 2024, City staff presented an update on Resilience Hubs to the [City of Austin, Travis County, and Austin Independent School District Joint Subcommittee](#). Based on the discussion and the questions that were raised at this meeting regarding City of Austin resilience efforts, I want to highlight the ongoing work by the Office of Resilience and provide a staff update.

As you know, Laura Patiño's last day as the City of Austin's Chief Resilience Officer was on January 12, 2024. I also shared with you when providing Laura's announcement that I had asked Interim Chief Sustainability Officer Zach Baumer to lead the Office of Resilience. Having Interim Chief Sustainability Officer Zach Baumer oversee the Office of Resilience will ensure the seamless continuation of all resilience projects and programs with the adequate support and resources from the Office of Sustainability needed to successfully manage them.

Under Zach's leadership, the Office of Resilience remains committed to advancing a number of initiatives crucial to the well-being of our community. These include the comprehensive resilience plan, the resilience hub network program, individual and community resilience-building, interdepartmental coordination for climate adaptation, external partnerships, and other projects.

In particular, the expansion and operation of the Resilience Hubs continue to be a top priority for the Office of Resilience and the organization. Our goal is to enhance the resilience of Austin's community members to various shocks and stressors, not only during emergencies but also in non-emergency situations. This proactive approach aligns with our broader commitment to foster a resilient community.

I also want to highlight the collaborative efforts between the Office of Resilience and Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM). The hiring of the Mass Care Coordinator and Resilience Hub Manager positions within HSEM demonstrates our collective dedication to bolstering Resilience Hubs and enhancing the City's capacity for community mass care and temporary emergency sheltering during disasters. It is crucial to clarify that these Council-approved positions are integral to supporting the Office of Resilience. Their role is designed to seamlessly provide assistance before, during, and after emergency events, reinforcing our commitment to comprehensive and continuous support for our community. To further clarify, the Office of Resilience manages the design, development, and

preparedness of the Resilience Hubs along with community outreach under normal operations. Upon an emergency, HSEM takes the lead in operating the Resilience Hubs as it does with all City-wide assets and operations to ensure an effective emergency response system.

If you have any questions regarding the information included in this memo, please contact Zach Baumer, Interim Chief Sustainability Officer, at Zach.Baumer@austintexas.gov.

cc: Susana Carbajal, Chief of Staff
Zach Baumer, Interim Chief Sustainability Officer