

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, most areas in the City will experience a total solar eclipse on the afternoon of Monday, April 8, 2024; and

WHEREAS, a total solar eclipse is one of nature's rarest and most wondrous phenomena; and

WHEREAS, the last total solar eclipse visible throughout the area where Austin is located occurred in the 14th century and the next opportunity after 2024 will occur in the 24th century; and

WHEREAS, a total solar eclipse presents a unique opportunity to unite our community in a shared experience; and

WHEREAS, people in portions of southeast and east Austin are not in the path of totality and must travel to see it; and

WHEREAS, the City must plan now to ensure that residents know the eclipse is happening and have the opportunity to fully experience it; and

WHEREAS, supplies, transportation, information, a break from work and public information are needed to help people fully experience the eclipse; and

WHEREAS, the next total solar eclipse over the contiguous United States will be far from Austin in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota on August 23, 2044; and

WHEREAS, most people will never have the opportunity to see a total solar eclipse; and

23 **WHEREAS**, a total solar eclipse is a profoundly different experience from a
24 partial solar eclipse; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the City wants as many Austin residents as possible to have
26 the opportunity to fully experience the eclipse; and

27 **WHEREAS**, eclipse watchers are planning to travel from across the globe
28 to witness the eclipse and many will come to Austin; and

29 **WHEREAS**, many people in the City remain unaware of the upcoming total
30 solar eclipse, underscoring the need for public outreach; and

31 **WHEREAS**, the City has a responsibility to help keep the public and our
32 employees safe during the eclipse and that requires thorough and advance
33 planning; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

35 The City Manager is directed to create and execute a plan to support a
36 positive, safe, and inclusive experience for viewing the total eclipse on April 8,
37 2024, in Austin.

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

39 The City Manager is directed to address information, access, safety, and
40 celebration in the plan, as described below, and to present the plan to Council by
41 February 1, 2024.

42 In formulating the plan, the City Manager should consider convening an
43 interdepartmental working group and collaborating with partners such as Visit
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Austin, Austin Parks Foundation, school districts, and other area governments. The City Manager should consider consulting with cities that were in the path of the August 21, 2017, total solar eclipse, as well as with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Texas Division of Emergency Management, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager should address the following four key areas in the plan:

INFORMATION:

- Launch a campaign to raise awareness among the general public, other local governments, businesses, neighborhood associations, and other institutions.
- Prepare and publicize basic information such as timing, map, and safety information in multiple languages, as well as providing information regarding the timing and length of totality at key locations.
- Provide safety and other information via text using community warning systems such as Warn Central Texas so the public is not caught off guard when the sky suddenly darkens in the afternoon.
- Engage experts at key sites to explain what's happening and answer questions. These may include area university faculty, graduate students, and amateur astronomers affiliated with organizations like the Austin Astronomical Society.

67 ACCESS:

- 68 ● Designate park areas in the path of totality where people can gather for
69 shared viewing.
- 70 ● Coordinate with Capital Metro to offer shuttle service for people who are
71 not in the path of totality or who would like to travel to see a longer
72 totality.
- 73 ● Work with the Austin Convention Center, Visit Austin, and the
74 hospitality industry to plan for the influx of visitors.
- 75 ● Develop a strategy to enable City employees to experience the eclipse to
76 the greatest extent possible.
- 77 ● Provide essential resources for neighborhoods interested in planning safe
78 and informative eclipse-related events.

79 SAFETY:

- 80 ● Disseminate eclipse information in multiple languages and through
81 multiple alerting systems, including text messages, to make sure people
82 are both aware of the pending eclipse and informed about eclipse safety.
- 83 ● Educate the public and City employees regarding the need to use a
84 specific, certified filter, such as eclipse glasses, to look at the sun
85 EXCEPT during totality, when it is safe to look at the sun because it is
86 fully obscured by the moon and only the corona of gases surrounding it is
87 visible.

- Make certified eclipse viewing glasses available at each official City viewing site and ensure staff and speaker systems are on hand to assist and guide viewers during the count-down.
- Anticipate and plan for increased demands on the City's 911 call center and police, emergency medical services and transportation staff.
- Anticipate potential changes or disruptions to flight patterns that may impact Austin Bergstrom International Airport.
- Work with State emergency management services and other relevant regional governments to ensure seamless coordination and communication.
- Implement key lessons learned from other cities in the path of the total solar eclipse in August 2017.

CELEBRATION:

- Host educational and viewing events at City-owned venues such as libraries and parks.
- Coordinate with Visit Austin, the hospitality industry, and the Tourism Public Improvement District to host celebratory events.
- Connect with county governments, local school districts and institutions of higher education, and other organizations to support a shared, community-wide experience.
- Encourage local artists and arts groups to celebrate the eclipse through newly created music, visual art, dance, poetry, and other forms of art.

- Amplify events organized by other groups.
- Build on lessons learned by City departments during the annular solar eclipse on October 14, 2023.

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

Myrna Rios
City Clerk

DRAFT