

27 owned land and real estate, the Austin Infrastructure Academy, partnerships with
28 higher education institutions, regional economic development organizations,
29 including the Diversity Ethnic Chamber Alliance (DECA) Chambers, the Austin
30 Chamber of Commerce, Opportunity Austin, and Rally Austin, skilled labor
31 organizations, and a global brand that attracts talent and investment from every
32 corner of the world; and

33 **WHEREAS**, Austin's existing economic landscape aligns strongly with the
34 State of Texas's own statewide economic development strategy, positioning the
35 City to leverage state and federal programs — including the Texas Enterprise
36 Fund, the Jobs, Energy, Technology and Innovation (JETI) Act, the Texas
37 Semiconductor Innovation Fund, and Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce
38 Semiconductors (CHIPS) Act resources—as active tools in Austin's economic
39 development work; and

40 **WHEREAS**, Austin's innovation economy is anchored by its research
41 institutions, medical school, and the pipeline from university lab to commercial
42 enterprise to established employer is one of the most valuable and underleveraged
43 economic development assets the City has—and a modern, progressive policy must
44 create a defined pathway for that pipeline to connect to City resources,
45 partnerships, and investment; and

46 **WHEREAS**, Austin's economy has a shared regional component, and the
47 City's economic development strategy must be pursued in active coordination with
48 regional partners, neighboring jurisdictions, the State of Texas, and international
49 economic development organizations—with the City bringing its own strategy, its
50 own assets, and its own voice to that collaboration as a full and committed partner;
51 and

52 **WHEREAS**, Austin has long been a gateway city—attracting talent, capital,
53 and companies from across the globe—and a modern, progressive economic
54 development strategy must include a robust international component: actively
55 recruiting foreign direct investment, supporting international companies seeking to
56 establish or expand U.S. operations, and positioning Austin as a preferred
57 destination for global firms in the City's existing economic landscape; and

58 **WHEREAS**, the City is now host to one of the most consequential
59 infrastructure investment cycles in its history—with approximately \$25 billion in
60 regional capital investment underway including the Interstate Highway-35
61 improvements, Project Connect light rail, the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment
62 Plant, and the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport expansion—and this
63 investment cycle represents not merely a condition for growth but an economic
64 sector in its own right, generating workforce demand, supply chain opportunity,
65 and innovation in infrastructure technology that Austin is uniquely positioned to
66 lead; and

67 **WHEREAS**, economic development policy must account for the full cost
68 and carrying capacity of growth, including demands on the City's water, energy,
69 and infrastructure systems—and companies that consume public resources in
70 extraordinary concentrations must meet proportionally higher standards of
71 community contribution and environmental accountability; and

72 **WHEREAS**, Austin's economy must work for all Austinites—and an
73 economic development policy that does not explicitly address workforce mobility,
74 equitable hiring, the development of career pathways for residents across every zip
75 code, and the support of women-owned and minority-owned businesses is
76 incomplete, regardless of how many jobs or how much investment it generates; and

77 **WHEREAS**, Austin's existing Chapter 380, Local Government Code,
78 incentive framework, including the recently updated Business Expansion Program
79 and the Place-Based Enhancement Program, provides an important foundation, but
80 the City lacks a comprehensive, values-aligned policy to guide how it recruits,
81 evaluates, structures agreements with, and holds accountable the larger companies
82 and strategic investments that will define Austin's economic future; and

83 **WHEREAS**, Austin stands at the threshold of a generational development
84 opportunity—with significant tracts of underutilized City-proximate land, major
85 public infrastructure investments underway, and global attention focused on this
86 region—and the City must have a policy framework capable of capturing that
87 opportunity in a manner consistent with its values and its long-term fiscal health;

88 **NOW THEREFORE,**

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

90 The City Council adopts the findings and predicates in Exhibit A.

91 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

92 The City Council establishes a framework to guide the development of a
93 modern, progressive economic development policy that is consistent with the
94 findings and predicates adopted above.

95 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

96 The City Manager is hereby directed to, within 180 days of the adoption of
97 this resolution, present to City Council a comprehensive Economic Development
98 Policy for the City of Austin, consistent with Exhibit A and the framework and
99 principles established herein. The proposed policy for Council consideration shall
100 include:

- 101 • An analysis and detailed operational strategy including specific
102 recruitment priorities, supply chain development strategies, innovation
103 ecosystem investments, and alignment with applicable state and federal
104 programs;
- 105 • A full economic development toolkit inventory documenting every tool
106 available to the City and establishing protocols for how those tools are
107 identified, offered, and coordinated in business recruitment and retention
108 conversations, including their use to incentivize annexation into the City
109 of Austin where applicable;
- 110 • An operational sector innovation track, including eligibility criteria,
111 proportional incentive structures, and connection to Austin's research
112 institution ecosystem;
- 113 • A community benefit framework establishing minimum standards, a
114 proportional scaling methodology, and binding compliance and claw
115 back provisions for all Chapter 380 agreements;
- 116 • An international economic development strategy, including target
117 markets, partnership structures, trade mission priorities, and a soft-
118 landing facilitation program for international companies entering the U.S.
119 market;
- 120 • A major development opportunity framework establishing how the City
121 identifies, prepares, and actively markets large-scale development sites,
122 including City-owned land, for catalytic economic development projects
123 consistent with Austin's values and long-term interests;
- 124 • A small business development program that provides potential for
125 coordinated resources to early-stage entrepreneurs and assists local
126 businesses in sustaining and expanding operations.

- 127 • A resource stewardship standard establishing how the City evaluates
128 infrastructure carrying capacity and resiliency, including water, energy,
129 and transportation, in making economic development commitments;
- 130 • A regional and state coordination protocol establishing the City's
131 engagement structure with regional economic development partners,
132 neighboring jurisdictions, and state economic development programs;
133 and
- 134 • A public accountability architecture including an annual performance
135 report on all active incentive agreements, a public-facing business
136 investment dashboard, and a claw back enforcement protocol—all
137 published on the City's open data portal.

138 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

139 The City Council requests the City Manager fill the position of Director of
140 Austin Economic Development as soon as practicable. This position is central to
141 Austin's ability to execute on its economic development strategy and to signal to
142 the business community, to regional partners, and to prospective employers that the
143 City is a serious, capable, and committed economic development actor.

144 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

145 The City Manager is directed to include in the policy development process
146 structured engagement with: Austin business, education, and labor leaders,
147 including but not limited to: the University of Texas at Austin, Huston-Tillotson
148 University, St. Edward's University, Concordia University, Texas State University,
149 and Austin Community College; the Austin Infrastructure Academy and workforce
150 development organizations, including skilled labor organizations, the City's
151 Construction Training Program, and Department of Labor training programs;

152 environmental and sustainability stakeholders; the DECA Chambers, the Austin
153 Chamber of Commerce, Opportunity Austin, Rally Austin and the Downtown
154 Austin Alliance; and regional, state, and international economic development
155 partners.

156 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

157 The City Manager is directed to immediately:

- 158 • Initiate an economic development permitting concierge service for
159 projects that are currently in the development pipeline;
- 160 • Assure Austin Energy's strategic role in economic development
161 recruitment, and establish a protocol for Austin Energy's participation in
162 business recruitment conversations; and
- 163 • Compile an inventory of City-owned land and real estate assets with
164 economic and community development potential, noting to preserve that
165 which has been previously prioritized for housing, that could expand the
166 City's opportunities for employers, expand the tax base or achieve
167 community goals, and present findings to Council within 90 days of
168 adoption.

169
170 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2026

ATTEST: _____

171 Erika Brady
172 City Clerk
173