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## 1                   RESOLUTION NO.

2                   **WHEREAS**, the Historic Sixth Street District in Austin, Texas, has long  
3                   served as a vibrant cultural and entertainment hub, attracting both residents and  
4                   visitors alike with its historic charm, live music, and nightlife offerings; and

5                   **WHEREAS**, this district has also experienced persistent challenges related  
6                   to public safety, particularly during peak weekend hours when large crowds gather,  
7                   often resulting in incidents of violence, underage drinking, and safety hazards for  
8                   patrons and first responders; and

9                   **WHEREAS**, previous assessments, such as the Responsible Hospitality  
10                  Institute's 2009 report and the 2013 SXSW analysis, have identified recurring  
11                  challenges, including the high presence of underage patrons, binge drinking, and  
12                  insufficient crowd control measures; and

13                  **WHEREAS**, the Public Assembly Code Enforcement (PACE) team was  
14                  created in 2006 to reduce the numerous hazards and City Code violations  
15                  associated with large gatherings and parties; and

16                  **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 20140327-36 directed the City Manager to  
17                  conduct a full post-event evaluation of all events taking place during SXSW in  
18                  2014; and

19                  **WHEREAS**, the 2014 SXSW Post-Event Evaluation stated permitted and  
20                  unpermitted events are taking place year-round with inadequate oversight,  
21                  undermining effectiveness of ordinances, and recommended increased funding for  
22                  the PACE team to operate year-round; and

23                  **WHEREAS**, in response to Resolution No. 20140925-081, staff  
24                  recommended the PACE team be active throughout the year for consistent and  
25                  expanded enforcement and increased collaboration between City departments in

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26 addition to implementing an entertainment license to address multiple City Code  
27 violations, including capacity loading, fire safety, and underage drinking; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the City Council has previously passed resolutions to address  
29 thesepublic safety concerns, including Resolution No. 20210729-175, which  
30 initiated the Safer Sixth Street Initiative to implement safety improvements, and  
31 Resolution No. 20220303-061, which directed additional actions to improve  
32 lighting, crowd management, and partnerships with law enforcement agencies; and

33 **WHEREAS**, historical reports and studies, such as the Responsible  
34 Hospitality Institute's 2009 report and the 2013 SXSW analysis, have identified  
35 recurring challenges, including the high presence of underage patrons, binge  
36 drinking, and insufficient crowd control measures; and

37 **WHEREAS**, in response to Resolution No. 20210729-175, staff  
38 recommended an annual entertainment permit required for places of assembly in  
39 the 6th Street district with operating hours after midnight and streamlining  
40 currently required inspections, reviews, and approvals into the annual  
41 entertainment permitting process.

42 **WHEREAS**, the June 12, 2021, mass shooting on Sixth Street and other  
43 incidents underscores the urgency of adopting multi-faceted strategies to ensure the  
44 safety and well-being of all who visit the area; and

45 **WHEREAS**, the City has taken steps to improve infrastructure by upgrading  
46 street lighting, adding HALO cameras for enhanced surveillance, and piloting  
47 programs like the Nightlife Establishment Training Program and the Nightlife  
48 Establishment Accreditation Program to increase bar staff training and promote  
49 best practices in venue management; and

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50 **WHEREAS**, the collaborative efforts of the Austin Police Department  
51 (APD), Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC), and the Development  
52 Services Department (DSD) have resulted in targeted enforcement actions against  
53 underage drinking, as well as the establishment of an interdepartmental team to  
54 oversee safety improvements; and

55 **WHEREAS**, the Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA) released its Downtown  
56 Austin Parking Strategy in 2019 to provide a data-driven parking management  
57 approach to support a vibrant downtown that enhances quality of life for visitors,  
58 residents, businesses, and workers; and

59 **WHEREAS**, the Urban Land Institute Austin's Technical Advisory Panel  
60 Downtown Austin Parking Report, released in March 2024, provides key parking  
61 recommendations for downtown to curb new parking construction and improve the  
62 downtown experience; and

63 **WHEREAS**, the Austin Core Transportation (ACT) Plan, slated for City  
64 Council consideration and possible adoption in Spring 2025, is a 25 year update to  
65 previous transportation plans and a long term vision for enhancing transportation  
66 and mobility options in and around Downtown Austin under one actionable plan to  
67 help accomplish the goals in the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan; and

68 **WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2025, the City released a memo outlining the  
69 phased implementation of the 2024 Centralized Parking Management Plan to  
70 create uniformity and a seamless parking experience for the public in both on-  
71 street and public parking garages; and

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72            **WHEREAS**, collectively, the prior analysis and recommendations provide  
73            guidance for parking and transportation circulation via valet, rideshare, and the  
74            City's affordable parking program; and

75            **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 20220609-067 allocated resources for  
76            additional HALO cameras and directed the City Manager to explore further  
77            technological and procedural enhancements to support law enforcement efforts in  
78            the district; and

79            **WHEREAS**, the Sixth Street ~~Safety Plan~~Pilot, implemented in December  
80            2024, reopened Sixth Street to vehicular traffic on select evenings, ~~leading to a~~  
81            ~~and fully reopened on January 16, 2025, with the goal of reducing crime and~~  
82            ~~improving safety; and~~

83            **WHEREAS**, the Sixth Street Pilot implemented an initial street redesign  
84            that widened sidewalks, changed signal timing to slow vehicular speeds, added  
85            rideshare drop-off zones, installed fencing, and created a bike lane for enhanced  
86            pedestrian and bicyclist comfort and safety at all hours; and

87            **WHEREAS**, pilot data reported ~~50% reduction in that between January 1~~  
88            ~~and February 11, 2025, compared to the same period in 2024, overall use of force~~  
89            ~~incidents, an 11% decline in on Sixth Street dropped by 50 percent and arrests, and~~  
90            ~~fewer injuries among officers and patrons on Sixth Street declined by 34 percent;~~  
91            and

92            **WHEREAS**, the reorganization of the Economic Development Department  
93            (EDD), DSD, and the newly established Office of Arts, Culture, Music &  
94            Entertainment will reorganize the staffing and operational management of

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95 programs related to public safety, mobility, and entertainment district  
96 improvements; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

97 **WHEREAS**, next steps include evaluating data and metrics from the initial  
98 pilot to inform implementation of a mid-term plan and long-term upgrades, guided  
99 by the ACT Plan, including cost estimates, implementation timeline, and funding  
100 sources; and **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

102 The City Manager is directed to provide the following transportation, and  
103 public safety, and economic impact data along with status updates for the Sixth  
104 Street pilot program for future mid-term and long-term plans:

105 **1. Data Collection & Reporting:**

106     ○ Collect data and metrics during the Sixth Street pilot program's  
107         duration from multiple departments related to safety,  
108         transportation, and economic development, and impacts to local  
109         businesses, including but not limited to pedestrian safety, crime  
110         rates, code violations, line queuing issues, frequency of overnight  
111         pilot removals due to overcrowding, feedback from property  
112         owners and business owners, business revenue, and a public survey  
113         assessing perceptions of safety and vibrancy.

114 **2. Infrastructure & Mobility Improvements:**

115     ○ Develop and intentionally implement an interim design plan to  
116         phase out fencing in favor of a solution aligned with the Austin  
117         Core Transportation (ACT) Plan goals, including wider sidewalks

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118 ~~and an all ages and abilities bike facility, with implementation~~  
119 ~~timelines, cost estimates, and potential funding sources.~~

120 ~~o Ensure project costs for the full reconstruction of Old 6<sup>th</sup> Street~~  
121 ~~from Brazos to I 35 are inclusive of all project needs, including but~~  
122 ~~not limited to green infrastructure, trees, and an all ages and ability~~  
123 ~~bike facility.~~

124 ~~o Full reconstructions should be phased if project cost exceeds~~  
125 ~~funding availability.~~

126 **3.2. Parking & Transportation Coordination:**

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127 o Explore and ~~implement ways~~provide recommendations to improve  
128 valet services to improve traffic circulation and pedestrian safety,  
129 including use of alleyways and nearby public and private garages.

130 o ~~Determine how~~Consider coordination with surface parking lots to  
131 enhance rideshare pick-up and drop-off circulation in the area,  
132 including use of ~~surface parking lots~~.

133 ~~o Explore ways in which alleyways can be utilized for enhanced~~  
134 ~~circulation and access for valet services, rideshare, and parking.~~

135 o ~~Continue~~Provide recommendations to continue efforts to expand  
136 the Affordable Parking Program, with a focus on downtown  
137 workers and musicians during late night hours, ~~with special~~  
138 ~~focus~~based on working through any challenges for~~lessons learned~~  
139 ~~from~~ the Convention Center pilot program, and coordinate with the

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140 Downtown Austin Water garage use Alliance on efforts for a  
141 District Parking model.

142 ~~Coordinate with the Downtown Austin Alliance on their efforts for~~  
143 ~~a District Parking model.~~

144 **4.3. Public Safety & Business Regulation:**

- 145 o Assess FTEs and costs needed to support a year-round Public  
146 Assembly Code Enforcement (PACE) team to address public  
147 safety concerns, including, but not limited to, after-hours  
148 establishments without a TABC license.
- 149 o Conduct a stakeholder engagement survey and provide  
150 recommendations regarding the implementation of an  
151 entertainment license for businesses serving liquor past midnight.
- 152 o Evaluate and provide recommendations on implementation of a  
153 Foreclosed Property Ordinance, Vacant Property Registration  
154 Ordinance, and a Vacant Building Program, which dedicates staff  
155 to work with property owners to find long-term solutions to  
156 vacancy.
- 157 o Identify any high-priority areas, including alleyways, in need of  
158 additional streetlights or upgrades, security lighting, or pedestrian  
159 lighting solutions and associated costs.

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160 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

161 The City Manager is directed to present and solicit feedback from relevant  
162 boards and commissions regarding the next steps proposed for the Sixth Street

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163 Safety pilot, including the Pedestrian Advisory Council, the Bicycle Advisory  
164 Council, the Urban Transportation Commission, and the Downtown Commission.

165 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

166 The City Manager shall provide quarterly updates in the form of a  
167 memorandum to the City Council, with the first by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and a  
168 presentation to the Mobility Committee on December 4, 2025.

169 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

170  
171 Myrna Rios  
172 City Clerk

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