

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, Family Justice Centers (FJC) are nationally recognized multi-agency facilities that provide multi-disciplinary wraparound services in one centralized location to victims of interpersonal violence, including intimate partner violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, child abuse, and human trafficking, thereby improving safety outcomes and access to justice; and

WHEREAS, FJC reduce the burden on survivors by minimizing the number of times they must retell their stories and the number of locations they must visit to receive services, offering trauma-informed, coordinated care in a single location; and

WHEREAS, the Family Justice Center began in San Diego, California, and has since grown into a nationally recognized model demonstrating measurable outcomes, including a reported 90% reduction in domestic violence homicides in the City and County of San Diego, underscoring the potential impact of a centralized model; and

WHEREAS, in a one-year period, the Family Justice Center known as One Safe Place, in Fort Worth, Texas has witnessed a significant increase in services provided to victims, with an 83% increase in total client visits and 35% increase in client referrals to partner agencies, demonstrating the potential to build trust with survivors through a strong demonstration of partnership; and

WHEREAS, according to a National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, nearly one in three women and one in four men in the United States have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner, with more than 12 million people affected by intimate partner violence annually; and

25 **WHEREAS**, in 2023, 179 women and 26 men were killed by intimate
26 partners in Texas, with six of those intimate partner homicides occurring in Travis
27 County; and

28 **WHEREAS**, in 2023, there were 1,800 confirmed child victims of abuse
29 and neglect in Travis County, and

30 **WHEREAS**, in 2024, the Travis County Attorney's Office filed over 3,400
31 family violence misdemeanor cases and over 570 applications for protective
32 orders, not including applications filed directly by survivors, private attorneys, or
33 other non-profit organizations; and

34 **WHEREAS**, since April 2023 the Travis County Attorney's Office has
35 engaged and partnered with FJC advocates who have guided strategic planning,
36 including community outreach and research and development, in pursuit of better
37 understanding of the resources currently in our community and any holes or gaps
38 in services that can be addressed through the successful implementation of an FJC;
39 and

40 **WHEREAS**, the Travis County Attorney's Office has committed to
41 providing office space for the proposed Austin-Travis County Family Justice
42 Center and is scheduled to begin the remodeling of the space to best fit the needs
43 of the community and best support victims by providing centralized, trauma-
44 informed services including, but not limited to, legal assistance, advocacy,
45 counseling, medical care, law enforcement support, housing navigation, child care,
46 and culturally specific support services, all designed to improve survivor safety
47 and well-being; **NOW, THEREFORE**,
48

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

The City expresses its strong support for the creation of an Austin-Travis County Family Justice Center and affirms its commitment to working collaboratively with Travis County and other partners to realize its mission to reduce domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking in our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed, for the purpose of establishing an Austin-Travis County Family Justice Center, to negotiate an interlocal agreement between Travis County and the City of Austin, establish an Austin-Travis County intergovernmental working group, composed of representatives from relevant City departments, Travis County, and community stakeholders, and to explore and develop the formation of a local government corporation that will coordinate and manage site development, funding strategy and governance structure necessary to launch and sustain the Austin-Travis County Family Justice Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is further directed to identify funding sources to support up to four full-time equivalent positions, either through reallocation or new hires, and the necessary technical infrastructure to support the Austin-Travis County Family Justice Center's operations and client service needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is further directed to report back to Council prior to the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget deliberations.

ADOPTED: _____, 2025 **ATTEST:** _____
Erika Brady
City Clerk