ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING OR REIMBURSING CERTAIN FEES RELATED TO THE AUSTIN DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL AND RACE HELD AT FESTIVAL BEACH ON APRIL 25, 2026; AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 021003-40 TO ADD THE AUSTIN DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL AND RACE AS A CITY CO-SPONSORED EVENT STARTING IN FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO INCLUDE THE AUSTIN DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL AND RACE IN THE LIST OF CITY CO-SPONSORED EVENTS FOR WHICH FEES ARE WAIVED ANNUALLY IN THE ORDINANCE ADOPTED WITH THE BUDGET STARTING IN FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027; AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A CO-SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE LUNAR FOUNDATION FOR THE AUSTIN DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL AND RACE.

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

PART 1. FINDINGS.

A. The Dragon Boat Festival is a holiday and cultural festival that has been celebrated for thousands of years throughout Asia and by diaspora communities around the world in modern times.

B. The Austin Dragon Boat Festival and Race was founded in 1999 and over the past 25 years has become a signature Austin event enjoyed annually by thousands of spectators and dozens of competing teams from the Austin area and around the country.

C. The Austin Dragon Boat Festival and Race is held every April at Lady Bird Lake and features its eponymous dragon boat races, cultural and artistic performances, local food vendors, community resources and service providers (including City of Austin departments), exhibitors, and programs and activities for kids of all ages.

D. Dragon boat teams consist of up to 22 members, and this year's Austin Dragon Boat Festival and Race will take place on April 25 at Festival Beach, features over 30 teams, and is expected to attract 3,000 attendees.

E. The Austin Dragon Boat Festival and Race has always been free and open to the public.

F. Beyond a cultural celebration and sporting event, the Austin Dragon Boat Festival and Race has a longstanding history of uplifting communities, such

as partnering with breast cancer survivors and schools and organizations for the blind, has multiple annually returning cancer survivor and blind dragon boat teams, and continues working to expand opportunities to empower everyone to participate in healthy physical activity.

G. The Austin Dragon Boat Festival and Race is one of the most visible and established local events representing the heritage, culture, and contributions of the Asian American community; despite comprising over nine percent of the Austin population, the City has not yet included an Asian American cultural event in its list of official City co-sponsored events.

H. The Austin Dragon Boat Festival and Race is now owned by The Lunar Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that celebrates and supports Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander arts and culture in Central Texas and ensures the Festival continues to be a free and welcoming event that showcases Austin's vibrant culture and creative community.

I. Council adopted Resolution No. 20240215-023 to support and preserve accessible, inclusive, open-to-the-public events and citywide traditions through consistent City co-sponsorship and other assistance.

J. The first Austin Dragon Boat Festival and Race was made possible with a cultural arts grant from the City and the City has already been providing assistance through grants and fee waivers throughout the Festival's history.

K. Co-sponsoring the Austin Dragon Boat Festival and Race would serve a municipal purpose by bringing Austin together to learn about and celebrate one of its many integral communities and cultures, encourage healthy exercise, highlight local small businesses, and promote tourism by providing the stability and support to expand and elevate the Festival's status as an internationally recognized dragon boat destination alongside leading festivals in Vancouver and Boston, while remaining free and open to all.

PART 2. Resolution No. 021003-40 is amended to add the Austin Dragon Boat Festival and Race as a City co-sponsored event starting in Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

PART 3. The City Manager is directed to include the Dragon Boat Festival and Race in the list of City co-sponsored events for which fees are waived annually in the ordinance adopted with the budget starting in Fiscal Year 2026-2027 to waive any fees.

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PART 4. Council authorizes the City Manager to negotiate and execute a co-sponsorship agreement with The Lunar Foundation for the Austin Dragon Boat Festival and Race.

PART 5. This ordinance waives or reimburses certain fees related to the Austin Dragon Boat Festival and Race to be held at Festival Beach and Lady Bird Lake on April 25, 2026.

PART 6. Council waives or reimburses certain fees related to the Austin Dragon Boat Festival and Race to be held at Festival Beach and Lady Bird Lake as follows:

Fees Waived or Reimbursed

Austin Parks and Recreation:

$60	Event Set-up Fee
$1,000	Event Reservation Fee
$60	Event Take-down/ Clean-up Fee
$20	Sound Permit
$250	Maintenance Fee

Austin Fire Department:

$675	Fire Outdoor Event Permit (Level 2)

Austin Public Health:

$265	Event Health and Safety Review
$2,330	**Total Fees Waived**

PART 7. This ordinance takes effect on _____, 2026.

PASSED AND APPROVED

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§
_____ , 2026 § _____
Kirk Watson
Mayor

APPROVED: _____ **ATTEST:** _____
Deborah Thomas Erika Brady
City Attorney City Clerk

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