

26 **WHEREAS**, several cities and states across the United States have already
27 taken steps to phase out PFAS in firefighting gear and foams, demonstrating the
28 feasibility of transitioning to safer alternatives; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the Austin Fire Department (AFD) has taken significant
30 proactive steps to eliminate PFAS firefighting foam from the workplace and to
31 move firefighters into protective gear that separates PFAS-containing material
32 from direct contact with firefighters' skin; and

33 **WHEREAS**, the City has a history of proactive environmental initiatives,
34 and removing PFAS from firefighting equipment aligns with the City's broader
35 sustainability and public health goals; and

36 **WHEREAS**, the availability of PFAS-free firefighting gear is increasing,
37 with manufacturers developing innovative products that provide necessary
38 protection without relying on harmful chemicals; and

39 **WHEREAS**, firefighters in Austin have expressed concern about the
40 potential health risks associated with long-term exposure to PFAS, and their well-
41 being is of utmost importance to the City; and

42 **WHEREAS**, the City aims to set an example for other municipalities in
43 Texas and across the nation by prioritizing the health of its first responders and the
44 environment in its policy decisions; and

45 **WHEREAS**, the City recognizes that a transition to PFAS-free firefighting
46 equipment will require careful planning, financial resources, and collaboration with
47 multiple stakeholders, and is committed to making this transition in a responsible
48 and timely manner; and

49 **WHEREAS**, alternative firefighting equipment and materials that do not
50 contain PFAS are increasingly available and can provide effective protection and
51 firefighting capabilities without the associated health risks; and

52 **WHEREAS**, the City seeks to be a leader in reducing exposure to harmful
53 chemicals and ensuring a safer, healthier environment for its residents and first
54 responders; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

56 The City Manager is directed to develop and implement a plan to phase out
57 the use of firefighting equipment and materials containing PFAS within the Austin
58 Fire Department and other city-operated fire services. The plan shall include but
59 not be limited to:

- 60 ● A comprehensive inventory of current firefighting equipment and
61 materials containing PFAS.
- 62 ● Identification of PFAS-free alternatives that meet or exceed current
63 safety and performance standards.
- 64 ● A timeline for the gradual replacement of PFAS-containing equipment, in
65 accordance with the replacement schedule for those items. This goal may
66 be impacted by non-PFAS gear availability, National Fire Protection
67 Association compliance testing and AFD wear testing for new gear.
- 68 ● An assessment of the financial implications of this transition, including
69 potential funding sources or budget adjustments.
- 70 ● Collaboration with other relevant city departments, public safety
71 organizations, and external experts to ensure the most effective and
72 efficient transition, including with the Department of Aviation to ensure
73 that any proposed plan for elimination of PFAS-containing materials and

74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96

equipment accounts for the availability of alternatives satisfying Federal Aviation Administration requirements.

- The City Manager is further directed to explore and recommend options for the safe disposal or recycling of PFAS-containing firefighting equipment in a manner that minimizes environmental impact.
- Provide baseline testing to determine current PFAS system levels for all firefighters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager shall provide annual updates to the City Council on the progress of this initiative, including any challenges encountered, adjustments to the timeline, and the identification of additional opportunities to reduce PFAS exposure within city operations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council encourages other municipalities, regional authorities, and state agencies to join efforts to eliminate PFAS from firefighting equipment and materials and to advocate for stronger regulations and support at the state and federal levels for PFAS-free alternatives.

ADOPTED: _____, 2024 **ATTEST:** _____

Myrna Rios
City Clerk