

25 **WHEREAS**, large scale public events often trigger human smuggling
26 efforts due to the volume of people and how a chaotic environment can create
27 challenges for law enforcement; and

28 **WHEREAS**, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited
29 Children, 10,000 sex workers were brought to Miami for the 2010 Super Bowl,
30 with similar reports made about the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil; and

31 **WHEREAS**, the City recognizes that some traffickers use various modes of
32 transportation, not limited to, air travel, bus, train, and rideshare to avoid detection
33 and to relocate victims; and

34 **WHEREAS**, according to the National Institute of Justice, 15% of the
35 people classified as “trafficked” have been put into labor trafficking; and

36 **WHEREAS**, labor trafficking is most common in agriculture, and it
37 encompasses both legal and undocumented workers with exploitive threats of
38 violence, either to the worker or their loved ones, the threat of deportation, or
39 perpetual debt that the worker or their family owes; and

40 **WHEREAS**, most cases involve the trafficker’s control of victims’
41 communication methods; and

42 **WHEREAS**, traffickers will participate in deliberate grooming and leverage
43 any language barriers the victims have in order to gain control; and

44 **WHEREAS**, organized crime groups and individual traffickers will
45 implement the use of virtual private networks, internet protocol address
46 scramblers, and various methods to obscure their true identification to evade law
47 enforcement detection and to keep victims in the dark; and

48 **WHEREAS**, the Austin Police Department’s Human Trafficking Unit is the
49 only full-time Austin agency dedicated to investigating human trafficking cases in
50 Central Texas, highlighting the urgent need for enhanced resources and support in
51 combating this pervasive issue; and

52 **WHEREAS**, this Resolution aligns with Resolution No. 20220915-052 that
53 directed the City Manager to provide appropriate resources to vendors who do
54 business with the City and encourage training to ensure vendors have the skills to
55 recognize indicators of individuals experiencing homelessness at risk of human
56 trafficking; and

57 **WHEREAS**, local emergency housing is critically needed to support
58 victims of trafficking; and

59 **WHEREAS**, training local hospitality industry professionals and
60 establishing relationships with hotels are vital strategies in identifying and
61 reporting potential trafficking situations; and

62 **WHEREAS**, the internet is a prominent platform for traffickers, and
63 educating parents and students about online safety risks is crucial in preventing
64 child grooming, abductions, and entry into human smuggling; **NOW,**
65 **THEREFORE,**

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

67 The City Manager is directed to explore options with hoteliers to continue
68 establishing safe and comprehensive emergency housing for trafficking victims
69 within the first 24-72 hours of rescue, ensuring access to safe and supportive
70 accommodations is established for immediate use.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to develop a comprehensive set of resources and an assessment program modeled after successful initiatives in other cities, aimed at enhancing human trafficking awareness and equipping hospitality industry employees with the necessary tools to identify and respond to potential trafficking situations effectively.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to explore creative options to provide law enforcement with covert digital payment resources for use in trafficking investigations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to explore ways to work with Austin – Bergstrom International Airport, CapMetro, Austin Transit Partnership, rideshare partners, and other relevant public transportation partners to develop strategies to help inform riders of trafficking activities, with information for victims.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to work with federal, state, and local law enforcement to develop a comprehensive plan to combat the use of stolen personal property by human traffickers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to explore additional state and federal grant opportunities for single and on-going anti-human trafficking initiatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to work with local school districts and community organizations to implement a comprehensive public safety education campaign on online risks and human trafficking awareness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to work with relevant stakeholders, community partners, and community members to develop a comprehensive online human trafficking tool kit on the City's website, or another appropriate website, that equips the community with anti-human trafficking information and tools, including, but not limited to:

- victim services resources;
- anonymous hotline;
- downloadable awareness materials;
- calendar of community engagement events;
- multi-language resources;
- human trafficking statistics; and
- artificial intelligence FAQ chat.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to collaborate with local community groups, partners, and other organizations to establish an annual human trafficking awareness event that, among other things, provides an opportunity for the community to receive education, victim services, and information of future community engagement initiatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to work with surrounding governmental entities to combat human trafficking, sharing information and resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to draft and send a letter to the U. S. Department of Justice, urging an increase to federal resources allocated to municipalities for combatting human trafficking, and adding this same goal to the City's federal legislative agenda.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to provide a progress update on these initiatives to the Public Safety Committee on June 10, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to report back to Council on the progress and status of these initiatives with a memorandum and presentation by no later than July 16, 2024.

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

Myrna Rios
City Clerk