

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, in May 2023, Austin voters overwhelmingly approved the citizen-initiated Austin Police Oversight Act, which strengthened the City’s system of independent civilian police oversight and prohibited the City from maintaining a confidential police personnel file (commonly referred to as the “G-file,” in reference to Texas Local Government Code § 143.089(g)) that is not subject to disclosure under the Texas Public Information Act; and

WHEREAS, in October 2024, the City and the Austin Police Association entered into a five-year meet and confer agreement providing that documentation related to alleged police officer misconduct is not confidential and is subject to release, subject to applicable law; and

WHEREAS, despite G-file records related to alleged police misconduct being legally subject to public release, they can remain difficult for members of the public to access in practice; and

WHEREAS, the City currently processes public requests for historical G-file information through the public information request process, which may result in high labor costs, overhead, and charges for physical media; and

WHEREAS, a local media outlet reportedly received an estimate of approximately \$27,000 in response to a request for all G-file information, and ultimately did not proceed with the request due to the cost; and

WHEREAS, high costs associated with public information requests place information that is legally public beyond the practical reach of many residents, journalists, researchers, advocates, and community organizations; and

24 **WHEREAS**, in the spirit of transparency, accessibility, and accountability,
25 the City has a responsibility to ensure that records deemed public by law are also
26 meaningfully available in practice; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

28 The City Manager is directed to assess the cost of developing and
29 implementing a searchable database containing G-file information regarding
30 complaints of police misconduct, including internal affairs investigations and
31 disciplinary outcomes (if any), maintained in Austin Police personnel files,
32 covering records maintained from January 1, 2016, through the present. The
33 database should be designed to accommodate the addition of future records. The
34 City Manager shall also consider and assess the costs of alternative scopes of
35 information for such a database, including but not limited to publishing only final
36 reports, disciplinary memoranda, notices of sustained allegations, and any other
37 records necessary to provide context for those documents; and

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

39 The City Manager shall consider ways to utilize existing City resources to
40 minimize the costs associated with developing and implementing the searchable G-
41 file database.
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to return to Council within five months of the adoption of this Resolution an assessment of the cost, staffing, resources, anticipated timeline, and other considerations associated with developing and maintaining the searchable database described in this resolution. The assessment shall identify any legal, technological, or operational limitations and may include recommendations or alternative approaches for making the information publicly accessible.

ADOPTED: _____, 2026

ATTEST: _____
Erika Brady
City Clerk