

26 permitting process that can be a genuine competitive asset, a portfolio of City-
27 owned land and real estate, the Austin Infrastructure Academy, partnerships with
28 higher education institutions, regional economic development organizations,
29 including the Diversity Ethnic Chamber Alliance (DECA) Chambers, the Austin
30 Chamber of Commerce, Opportunity Austin, Rally Austin, and the Downtown
31 Austin Alliance, skilled labor organizations, and a global brand that attracts talent
32 and investment from every corner of the world; and

33 **WHEREAS**, Austin's target economic sectors align strongly with the State
34 of Texas's own statewide economic development strategy, positioning the City to
35 leverage state and federal programs — including the Texas Enterprise Fund, the
36 Jobs, Energy, Technology and Innovation (JETI) Act, the Texas Semiconductor
37 Innovation Fund, and Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors
38 (CHIPS) Act resources—as active tools in Austin's economic development work;
39 and

40 **WHEREAS**, Austin's innovation economy is anchored by its research
41 institutions, medical school, and the pipeline from university lab to commercial
42 enterprise to established employer is one of the most valuable and underleveraged
43 economic development assets the City has—and a modern, progressive policy must
44 create a defined pathway for that pipeline to connect to City resources,
45 partnerships, and investment; and

46 **WHEREAS**, Austin's economy has a shared regional component, and the
47 City's economic development strategy must be pursued in active coordination with
48 regional partners, neighboring jurisdictions, the State of Texas, and international
49 economic development organizations—with the City bringing its own strategy, its
50 own assets, and its own voice to that collaboration as a full and committed partner;
51 and

52
53 **WHEREAS**, Austin has long been a gateway city—attracting talent, capital,
54 and companies from across the globe—and a modern, progressive economic
55 development strategy must include a robust international component: actively
56 recruiting foreign direct investment, supporting international companies seeking to
57 establish or expand U.S. operations, and positioning Austin as a preferred
58 destination for global firms in the City's target sectors; and

59 **WHEREAS**, the City is now host to one of the most consequential
60 infrastructure investment cycles in its history—with approximately \$25 billion in
61 regional capital investment underway including the Interstate Highway-35
62 improvements, Project Connect light rail, the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment
63 Plant, and the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport expansion—and this
64 investment cycle represents not merely a condition for growth but an economic
65 sector in its own right, generating workforce demand, supply chain opportunity,
66 and innovation in infrastructure technology that Austin is uniquely positioned to
67 lead; and

68 **WHEREAS**, economic development policy must account for the full cost
69 and carrying capacity of growth, including demands on the City's water, energy,
70 and infrastructure systems—and companies that consume public resources in
71 extraordinary concentrations must meet proportionally higher standards of
72 community contribution and environmental accountability; and

73 **WHEREAS**, Austin's economy must work for all Austinites—and an
74 economic development policy that does not explicitly address workforce mobility,
75 equitable hiring, the development of career pathways for residents across every zip
76 code, and the support of women-owned and minority-owned businesses is
77 incomplete, regardless of how many jobs or how much investment it generates; and

78 **WHEREAS**, Austin's existing Chapter 380, Local Government Code,
79 incentive framework, including the recently updated Business Expansion Program
80 and the Place-Based Enhancement Program, provides an important foundation, but
81 the City lacks a comprehensive, sector-targeted, values-aligned policy to guide
82 how it recruits, evaluates, structures agreements with, and holds accountable the
83 larger companies and strategic investments that will define Austin's economic
84 future; and

85 **WHEREAS**, Austin stands at the threshold of a generational development
86 opportunity—with significant tracts of underutilized City-proximate land, major
87 public infrastructure investments underway, and global attention focused on this
88 region—and the City must have a policy framework capable of capturing that
89 opportunity in a manner consistent with its values and its long-term fiscal health;

90 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

92 The City Council adopts the findings and predicates in Exhibit A.

93 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

94 The City Council establishes a framework to guide the development of a
95 modern, progressive economic development policy that is consistent with the
96 findings and predicates adopted above.

97 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

98 The City Manager is hereby directed to, within 180 days of the adoption of
99 this resolution, present to City Council a comprehensive Economic Development
100 Policy for the City of Austin, consistent with Exhibit A and the framework and
101 principles established herein. The policy shall include:

- 102 • A detailed operational target sector strategy for each of the ten sectors
103 identified in Exhibit A, including specific recruitment priorities, supply
104 chain development strategies, innovation ecosystem investments, and
105 alignment with applicable state and federal programs;
- 106 • A full economic development toolkit inventory documenting every tool
107 available to the City and establishing protocols for how those tools are
108 identified, offered, and coordinated in business recruitment and retention
109 conversations;
- 110 • An operational sector innovation track, including eligibility criteria,
111 proportional incentive structures, and connection to Austin's research
112 institution ecosystem;
- 113 • A community benefit framework establishing minimum standards, a
114 proportional scaling methodology, and binding compliance and claw
115 back provisions for all Chapter 380 agreements;
- 116 • An international economic development strategy, including target
117 markets, partnership structures, trade mission priorities, and a soft-
118 landing facilitation program for international companies entering the U.S.
119 market;
- 120 • A major development opportunity framework establishing how the City
121 identifies, prepares, and actively markets large-scale development sites,
122 including City-owned land, for catalytic economic development projects
123 consistent with Austin's values and long-term interests;
- 124 • A resource stewardship standard establishing how the City evaluates
125 infrastructure carrying capacity, including water, energy, and
126 transportation, in making economic development commitments;
- 127

- A regional and state coordination protocol establishing the City's engagement structure with regional economic development partners, neighboring jurisdictions, and state economic development programs; and
- A public accountability architecture including an annual performance report on all active incentive agreements, a public-facing business investment dashboard, and a claw back enforcement protocol—all published on the City's open data portal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council requests the City Manager fill the position of Director of Austin Economic Development as soon as practicable. This position is central to Austin's ability to execute on its economic development strategy and to signal to the business community, to regional partners, and to prospective employers that the City is a serious, capable, and committed economic development actor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to include in the policy development process structured engagement with: Austin business leaders across target sectors; the University of Texas at Austin and Austin Community College; the Austin Infrastructure Academy and workforce development organizations, including skilled labor organizations; environmental and sustainability stakeholders; the DECA Chambers, the Austin Chamber of Commerce, Opportunity Austin, Rally Austin and the Downtown Austin Alliance; and regional, state, and international economic development partners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to immediately:

- Activate the City's economic development permitting concierge service for any project in a target sector currently in the development pipeline;
- Assure Austin Energy's strategic role in economic development recruitment, and establish a protocol for Austin Energy's participation in target sector recruitment conversations; and
- Compile an inventory of City-owned land and real estate assets with economic development potential and present findings to Council within 90 days of adoption.

ADOPTED: _____, 2026

ATTEST: _____

Erika Brady
City Clerk