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RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, 15 percent of the Travis County population is food insecure, with disproportionately high food insecurity along the IH-35 corridor, in the Eastern Crescent, and in rural parts of the County; and

WHEREAS, currently in Austin/Travis County: 13 acres of farmland are lost each day; only 1.1 percent of farmland (2,310 acres) is devoted to fruits and vegetables; 1.24 pounds of food are wasted every day; only 0.06 percent of food consumed is locally produced; and as of 2022, 18 out of 47 zip codes lacked a grocery store; and

WHEREAS, for Austin/Travis County to be a thriving, healthy, and just community, it must have an equitable, sustainable, and resilient local food system; and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2021, the Austin/Travis County Food Policy Board recommended that the City and Travis County support and fund a food plan and that such plan be developed through an equitable, inclusive process led by a community advisory board comprised of community and business members impacted by food system inequities; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2021, City Council passed Resolution No. 20210610-039 directing the development of a five-year Austin/Travis County Food Plan (Plan) to address racial disparities within our community's food system; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Office of Sustainability published the *State of the Food System Report* as a starting point to understand Austin's current food system; and

WHEREAS, the Plan incorporates the community's vision and core values for our local food system; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the Austin/Travis County community has been deeply engaged
28 in shaping this Plan, demonstrated by community member participation in Plan
29 meetings and events, feedback collected, and the commitment of many individuals
30 working tirelessly on all aspects of the planning process; and

31 **WHEREAS**, the Plan is a set of priorities for the next five years developed
32 by City and County partners from a variety of backgrounds across the food system;
33 and

34 **WHEREAS**, the Plan honors local agencies and actors who have previously
35 identified strategies to advance our food system; and

36 **WHEREAS**, the Plan is an active living document that will ignite and
37 mobilize a local food movement centered around the implementation of the Plan;
38 and

39 **WHEREAS**, on June 10, 2024, the Austin/Travis County Food Policy
40 Board approved the Plan; and

41 **WHEREAS**, on October 8, 2024, the Travis County Commissioners Court
42 approved the Plan; and

43 **WHEREAS**, on October 10, 2024, the City Council will vote to approve the
44 adoption of the Plan, which sets the vision and goals for achieving a just,
45 accessible, and culturally diverse food system in Austin/Travis County for the next
46 five years; and

47 **WHEREAS**, the Plan includes a number of strategies that may be
48 implemented in the short term, and the imperative to act means City Council
49 cannot wait for the next budget cycle to make investments that advance the
50 strategies outlined in the Plan; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

52 The City Council affirms support for the vision, goals, and strategies outlined
53 within the Austin/Travis County Food Plan.

54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

55 In adopting the Plan, the City Council recognizes that the City is one partner
56 of many of the community co-created Plan, and therefore directs the City Manager
57 to:

- 58 • Work with Plan partners, businesses, and the community to develop an
59 asset map of available resources and current food system conditions.
- 60 • Use the strategies and goals outlined in the Plan to create a roadmap with
61 actionable steps for the City to prioritize and lead.
- 62 • Identify ongoing funding and partnership opportunities to implement
63 Plan strategies.
- 64 • Continue to engage and support community-based organizations, school
65 districts and higher education entities, small and large businesses, faith
66 communities, grassroots initiatives, and individual community members to
67 collaboratively achieve all goals within the Plan.

68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

69 The City Manager is directed to identify and clearly define leadership roles
70 and responsibilities for implementation of the various strategies within the Plan,
71 including defining metrics and measurements of success, to return to Council with
72 an update by March 2025, and to thereafter provide quarterly updates on the
73 implementation of the Plan.

74 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

75 The City Manager is directed to identify and prioritize the strategies within
76 the Plan that address racial inequities and have a large impact on displacement,

77 food access and insecurity, food workers, emergency food preparedness and
78 response, and agricultural land.

79 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

80 The City Manager is directed to identify funding in the Fiscal Year 2025-
81 2026 budget for investment in and implementation of the Plan and to identify
82 strategy priorities to be included as part of the next bond package. In the meantime,
83 the City Manager is directed to identify strategies in the Plan that do not require a
84 budget amendment and that can be launched in the near term.

85 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

86 Upon adoption of the Plan, the City Manager is directed to commence the
87 planning process to update the Plan within the next five years.

88
89 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2024 **ATTEST:** _____

91 Myrna Rios
92 City Clerk