

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS, according to the State of the Homelessness Response System report, the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) highlights our local Homelessness Response System is in need of approximately \$350 million over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, all remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding is encumbered and unable to fund any additional investments in the homeless response system in the future; and

WHEREAS, during the October 22, 2024 work session, the City's Budget Office identified an estimated annual cost for ongoing needs for rapid rehousing and emergency shelters at a minimum of \$15.4 million; and

WHEREAS, Austin has a higher rate of people experiencing chronic homelessness than most other cities; and

WHEREAS, the City's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget strategic priorities include optimizing investments, partnerships, and service delivery to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness in Austin; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified alleviating homelessness as a key priority; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE AUSTIN PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:**

The City adopts the State of Homelessness Response System report and modeling to inform and guide investments in the homelessness response system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Starting with the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget, the City Manager is directed to explore sustainable funding sources, partnerships, and opportunities to prioritize ongoing investments in the homelessness response system. Investments should include, but are not limited to:

- Resources and staffing within the Homeless Strategy Office for collaboration among City departments, community organizations, and service providers; and
- Capital and service funds for Emergency Shelter, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Rapid Rehousing; and

- Diversion and prevention programs and strategies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to provide an update to the City Council by April 2025.