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RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, Ebenezer Baptist Church is celebrating its 150th anniversary, marking a century and a half of spiritual leadership, community service, and cultural enrichment in Austin’s African American community; and

WHEREAS, Huston-Tillotson University is celebrating its 150th anniversary, recognizing its legacy as a pillar of higher education, leadership development, and cultural preservation for African Americans in Austin and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the historical and cultural significance of both Ebenezer Baptist Church and Huston-Tillotson University as foundational institutions that have shaped the identity and resilience of the City’s African American Cultural Heritage District (AACHD); and

WHEREAS, the City has initiated strategic planning efforts in alignment with Resolution No. 20210902-048, which emphasizes the enhancement of public spaces and cultural identity within the AACHD; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20210902-048 specifically calls for the development of way-finding signage for public rights-of-way to provide directional guidance for locating the AACHD, as well as significant landmarks and places of interest within the AACHD; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20210902-048 further calls for the funding and implementation of a highly visible place-making program within the AACHD, incorporating elements such as signage, public art, streetscape

24 features, branded street signs or markers, and historic neighborhood
25 identifiers; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

27 The City formally recognizes the historic significance of the 150th
28 anniversaries of Ebenezer Baptist Church and Huston-Tillotson University
29 and their enduring contributions to the cultural, spiritual, and educational
30 legacy of the community.

31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

32 The City Manager is directed to coordinate appropriate City
33 departments and align efforts within the ongoing strategic planning initiative
34 for the AACHD to identify and implement public realm enhancements along
35 key corridors within the AACHD, including, but not limited to:

- 36 1. lighting improvements to enhance visibility and safety;
 - 37 2. street banners and district branding elements to highlight the AACHD's
38 identity;
 - 39 3. custom signage and historic markers celebrating the history and
40 contributions of institutions such as Ebenezer Baptist Church and
41 Huston-Tillotson University; and
 - 42 4. installation of way-finding signage to improve accessibility to historic
43 and cultural landmarks.
- 44

45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

46 The City Manager is directed to expedite, improve, and coordinate all
47 activities related to the City's ongoing strategic planning efforts for the
48 AACHD.

49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

50 The City Manager is directed to report back to City Council, no later
51 than May 19, 2025, detailing the progress of these initiatives, including the
52 status of implementation, any challenges encountered, and recommendations
53 for further actions to support the ongoing enhancement of the AACHD.

54
55 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2025 **ATTEST:** _____

56 Myrna Rios
57 City Clerk