

23 levels at AUS, and have urged the FAA to take immediate action to address these
24 incidents; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the increased volume of takeoffs, landings, and air traffic at
26 AUS, which has grown by 30 percent since pre-Covid levels, necessitates a
27 commensurate increase in staffing levels to ensure the safe operation of the airport;
28 and

29 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. House of Representatives has recently approved H.R.
30 3935, the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act,
31 which reauthorizes the FAA and aims to bring about safety reforms and mandates
32 the FAA to adopt a new staffing model; and

33 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Senate has yet to pass S. 1939, the FAA
34 Reauthorization Act of 2023, which could include further safety reforms; and

35 **WHEREAS**, since September 2022, AUS traffic volumes increased from
36 medium- to large-hub status, accounting for more than one percent of total flights
37 in the National Airport System; and

38 **WHEREAS**, the FAA should take immediate action to improve the safety
39 of travelers and the general public; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**
40 **BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

41 The City Manager is directed to, as soon as practical and in coordination
42 with the FAA and airlines operating at AUS, develop and implement a ramp
43 control system at AUS to facilitate and support safe navigation of the ramp and
44 aircraft pushback.

46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

47 The City Manager is directed to, upon receiving official notification of a
48 significant event, immediately notify the City Council and Airport Advisory
49 Commission of the incident. In addition, upon conclusion of any and all
50 investigations related to the incident by the responsible federal agency, and the
51 public release of an investigative report, staff shall notify, and make this
52 information available to, the City Council and Airport Advisory Commission. In
53 addition, staff shall continue to routinely engage with the Air Traffic Control
54 Tower to discuss and mitigate safety risks.

55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

56 The Austin City Council endorses H.R. 3935, the Securing Growth and
57 Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act, which reauthorizes the functions of
58 the FAA and aviation safety and infrastructure programs for the next five years,
59 and urges the U.S. Congress to adopt an FAA reauthorization law that includes
60 robust safety reforms, such as:

- 61 • a hiring target for controllers to be set at the maximum able to be trained;
- 62 • a required study on congested airspace including air traffic controller
63 staffing;
- 64 • expansion of ground surveillance and detection equipment at large and
65 medium hub airports to better inform air traffic controllers of potential
66 danger and prevent runway incursions;
- 67 • require foreign aircraft repair stations to be subject to the same standards
68 as American repair stations;
- 69 • an audit of FAA workforce plans to ensure proper staffing;

- a revised safety model for aviation safety inspectors including a set facility staffing level;
- new cybersecurity requirements for aircrafts; and
- enhanced aircraft certification reforms for the design and manufacturing of aircraft.

The City Manager is directed to communicate to our federal delegation our support for legislation that includes these provisions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Austin City Council urges the FAA to take immediate and comprehensive action to improve the safety of travelers at AUS through the following specific actions:

- Designate AUS as a “level 10 terminal” facility, enabling the airport to access additional resources and provide increased compensation to air traffic controllers.
- Grant AUS priority consideration in future transfers facilitated by the National Centralized Employee Requested Reassignment Process Team until staffing levels reach a satisfactory level.
- Allow for the appointment of an operational supervisor/controller-in-charge to provide oversight without being tasked with flight data/clearance delivery duties.
- Ensure that a minimum of 12 hours of on-the-job training is provided to each certified professional controller every week.
- Consider upgrading the airspace levels surrounding AUS to increase the protected airspace and reduce controller workload.

94 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

95 The City Manager is directed to report back to the City Council with
96 recommendations for action and implementation of this Resolution by February
97 2024.

98
99 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2023 **ATTEST:** _____
100 Myrna Rios
101 City Clerk
102