

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Animal Services Office (ASO) Animal Protection division serves the City of Austin by defending threatened animals from abuse or neglect, helping injured animals, working closely with law enforcement to contain dangerous animals, assisting other agencies with wildlife such as coyotes or bats, and ensuring that City ordinances related to animal welfare are followed; and

WHEREAS, Travis County has contracted with the City to address incidents such as dangerous animals, animals at large, nuisance animals, animal bites, and act as the rabies control authority for unincorporated Travis County resulting in 1,023 square miles of area served; and

WHEREAS, a 2015 City of Austin Audit Report found response times to many citizen calls related to aggressive or injured animals and police requests for assistance were not timely; and

WHEREAS, response times may be improved when an Animal Protection Officer selects the quickest route to provide assistance, which includes tolled roadways; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of a city may designate city vehicles as emergency vehicles; and

WHEREAS, when a governing body of a city designates city vehicles as emergency vehicles, the vehicles qualify as “emergency vehicles” in Section 541.201 of the Texas Transportation Code; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

City Council deems ASO vehicles as emergency vehicles to immediately respond to resident calls involving abused, injured, or neglected animals, dangerous animals, wildlife, and rabies cases within Travis County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

City Council designates ASO vehicles as emergency vehicles as defined by
Section 541.201(1)(D) of the Texas Transportation Code.

ADOPTED: _____, 2025

ATTEST: _____

Erika Brady
City Clerk