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Amendment offered by CM Marc Duchon

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Austin Homeless Strategies and Operations (HSO) Office’s mission is to make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring; and

WHEREAS, downtown Austin has a need for compassionate, comprehensive, and multi-departmental homelessness response resources, programs, and street outreach services such as, but not limited to, the Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST) and the Austin Community Court (ACC) Mobile Court; and

WHEREAS, HOST is an innovative and collaborative initiative that operates primarily in the Downtown and West Campus area, occasionally assisting other parts of the city to address the needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness; and

WHEREAS, ACC Mobile Court is an important part of Austin’s Homelessness Response System, providing walk-in homeless services to an estimated 70 people per day onsite at the downtown location. Most notably, the ACC Mobile Court provides services to resolve cases and outstanding warrants across Austin; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Point in Time count (PIT) is to better understand the scope, characteristics and subpopulations of people experiencing homelessness in the City so that funding and services may be targeted appropriately; and

WHEREAS, PIT count data released by ECHO in May 2025 reported 3,238 people are experiencing homelessness, with 1,577 people sleeping unsheltered.

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24 Some of the highest PIT count numbers in the City were found in the 78701,
25 78704, 78744, 78702, 78753, and 78741 zip codes; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the State of the Homelessness Response System published by
27 ECHO revealed a 72 percent increase in the number of people seeking services
28 from the Homelessness Response System for the first time, indicating an
29 improving street outreach system; and

30 **WHEREAS**, the Texas Legislature enacted HB 1925 in September 2021,
31 making it a Class C misdemeanor to camp in a public place; and

32 **WHEREAS**, ECHO reported 1,307 citations have been issued under
33 camping ban laws, such as HB1925, since 2021; and

34 **WHEREAS**, many of the zip codes with the highest PIT count numbers in
35 the City are not located downtown and Austinites experiencing homelessness in
36 these areas deserve the same consistent, compassionate, comprehensive, and multi-
37 departmental homelessness response resources, programs, and street outreach
38 services; and

39 **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 20250130-083 adopted the State of
40 Homelessness Response System report and directed the City Manager to prioritize
41 investments for a balanced homelessness response system, including resources and
42 staffing within the HSO Office; ~~and~~

43 ~~**WHEREAS**, Council adopted the City Budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year~~
44 ~~and amended it to include an increase of \$35.5 million to expand programs~~
45 ~~intended to increase housing affordability and reduce homelessness, dependent~~
46 ~~upon voter approval of a tax rate increase.~~

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~~WHEREAS, this budget increase includes \$2 million in ongoing funding for street outreach efforts to improve engagement with unsheltered individuals, enhance public health response, and connect individuals to housing and services;~~

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Council reaffirms its commitment to prioritizing affordable housing projects funded or secured through the City or the Austin Housing Finance Corporation that seek to maximize the number of units accepting referrals via the Coordinated Entry System and to make existing and available units accessible to tenant-based permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing, as a part of the Homelessness Response System, by committing to accepting referrals from the Coordinated Entry System, as outlined in Resolution No. 20221208-067.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Council directs the City Manager to develop a plan to prioritize, expand, and align the operations of street and community outreach(SCO). The plan should include programs and initiatives such as, but not limited to, the HOST, the ACC Mobile Court, the No Wrong Door initiative, the Austin FIRST initiative, Programs for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness, and HSO outreach. The plan should consider how to identify and serve regions of the City that experience disproportionate incidence and prevalence of homelessness as reflected in data sources such as the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), PIT, Austin 311 service requests, Austin 911 calls for service, and additional data sources and measures identified by HSO. Moreover, this prioritization, expansion,

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70 and integration plan should emphasize the importance of primary and mental
71 healthcare service connection, de-escalation training, access to crisis shelter,
72 respite beds, housing navigation services and potential alternative forms of shelter.

73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

74 The City Manager is directed to outline a street outreach sequence, aligned
75 with a proposed encampment management sequence for people experiencing
76 homelessness to gather personal belongings and outreach workers to provide
77 appropriate resources and housing connections. This sequence should be made
78 available to the appropriate providers in the homeless care continuum that may be
79 involved in ongoing care for individuals in an encampment before action is taken.

80 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

81 The City Manager is directed to develop a process to review and report
82 circumstances the street outreach and encampment management sequence is not
83 followed for any reason.

84 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

85 The City Manager is directed to produce a feasibility study, outlining any
86 relevant fiscal considerations, to expand the Violet KeepSafe Storage program to
87 protect individuals' vital documents, belongings, and medications at all times.

88 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

89 The City Manager is directed to update the ongoing progress, metrics of
90 success, and gaps in services on dashboards related to homelessness response such
91 as, but not limited to, a homeless encampment management dashboard and the

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public reporting dashboard of the performance of service providers, as outlined in Resolution No. 20250813-012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to present the prioritization and expansion plan to Council no later than December 11, 2025.

ADOPTED: _____, 2025 **ATTEST:** _____

Erika Brady
City Clerk