City of Austin Council Meeting Backup: April 10, 2025

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#### **RESOLUTION NO.**

**WHEREAS**, the Historic Sixth Street District in Austin, Texas has long served as a vibrant cultural and entertainment hub, attracting both residents and visitors alike with its historic charm, live music, and nightlife offerings; and

WHEREAS, this district has also experienced challenges related to public safety, particularly during peak weekend hours when large crowds gather, often resulting in incidents of violence, underage drinking, and safety hazards for patrons and first responders; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has previously passed resolutions to address these concerns, including Resolution No. 20210729-175, which initiated the Safer Sixth Street Initiative to implement safety improvements, and Resolution No. 20220303-061, which directed additional actions to improve lighting, crowd management, and partnerships with law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, historical reports and studies, such as the Responsible Hospitality Institute's 2009 report and the 2013 SXSW analysis, have identified recurring challenges, including the high presence of underage patrons, binge drinking, and insufficient crowd control measures; and

WHEREAS, the June 12, 2021, mass shooting on Sixth Street and other incidents underscores the urgency of adopting multi-faceted strategies to ensure the safety and well-being of all who visit the area; and

WHEREAS, the City has taken steps to improve infrastructure by upgrading street lighting, adding HALO cameras for enhanced surveillance, and piloting programs like the Nightlife Establishment Training Program and the Nightlife Establishment Accreditation Program to increase bar staff training and promote best practices in venue management; and

Page 1 of 5

WHEREAS, the collaborative efforts of the Austin Police Department (APD), Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC), and the Development Services Department (DSD) have resulted in targeted enforcement actions against underage drinking, as well as the establishment of an interdepartmental team to oversee safety improvements; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20220609-067 allocated resources for additional HALO cameras and directed the City Manager to explore further technological and procedural enhancements to support law enforcement efforts in the district; and

WHEREAS, the Sixth Street Safety Plan, implemented in December 2024, reopened Sixth Street to vehicular traffic on select evenings, leading to a reported 50% reduction in use-of-force incidents, an 11% decline in arrests, and fewer injuries among officers and patrons; and

WHEREAS, the reorganization of the Economic Development Department (EDD), DSD, and the newly established Office of Arts, Culture, Music & Entertainment will reorganize the staffing and operational management of programs related to public safety, mobility, and entertainment district improvements; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

The City Manager is directed to provide the following transportation, public safety, and economic impact data along with status updates for the Sixth Street pilot program for future mid-term and long-term plans:

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### 1. Data Collection & Reporting:

• Collect data and metrics during the Sixth Street pilot program's duration from multiple departments related to safety, transportation, economic development, and impacts to local businesses, including but not limited to pedestrian safety, crime rates, City Code violations, line queuing issues, frequency of overnight pilot removals due to overcrowding, feedback from property owners, and a public survey assessing perceptions of safety and vibrancy.

#### 2. Infrastructure & Mobility Improvements:

- Develop and intentionally implement an interim design plan to phase out fencing in favor of a solution aligned with the Austin Core Transportation (ACT) Plan goals, including wider sidewalks and an all ages and abilities bike facility, with implementation timelines, cost estimates, and potential funding sources.
- Ensure project costs for the full reconstruction of Old 6<sup>th</sup> Street from Brazos to I-35 are inclusive of all project needs, including but not limited to green infrastructure, trees, and an all ages and abilities bike facility.
- Full reconstructions should be phased if project cost exceeds funding availability.

City of Austin Council Meeting Backup: April 10, 2025

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## 3. Parking & Transportation Coordination:

- Explore and implement ways to improve valet services to improve traffic circulation and pedestrian safety, including use of nearby public and private garages.
- Determine how to enhance rideshare pick-up and drop-off circulation in the area, including use of surface parking lots.
- Explore ways in which alleyways can be utilized for enhanced circulation and access for valet services, rideshare, and parking.
- Continue efforts to expand the Affordable Parking Program, with a focus on downtown workers and musicians during late night hours, with special focus on working through any challenges for the Convention Center and Austin Water garage use.
- Coordinate with the Downtown Austin Alliance on their efforts for a District Parking model.

#### 3. Public Safety & Business Regulation:

- Assess full-time employees and costs needed to support a yearround Public Assembly Code Enforcement (PACE) team to address public safety concerns, including, but not limited to, afterhours establishments without a TABC license.
- Conduct a stakeholder engagement survey regarding the implementation of an entertainment license for businesses serving liquor past midnight.

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# **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager shall provide quarterly updates in the form of a memorandum to the City Council, with the first by April 30th, 2025, and a presentation to the Mobility Committee on December 4, 2025.

ADOPTED:, 2025 ATTEST:Myrn: City	a Rios
City	
	Clerk
Page 5 of 5	