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RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget includes a Capital Budget of \$1.6 billion for planned spending, determined by a five-year planning cycle for infrastructure and facility investments; and

WHEREAS, all capital and neighborhood-level safety improvement projects are funded through an extensive planning cycle process and implemented as funds are identified and become available; and

WHEREAS, Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funded projects are processed through an administrative prioritization that varies depending on the project type, the department, and other factors; and

WHEREAS, the planning and prioritization can result in a years-long process between when a community need is identified and when projects get funded and constructed, a delay that can lead to public frustration and mistrust that local government can be responsive to community needs; and

WHEREAS, Austin City Council District offices are often most directly in touch with the needs of the district residents and can identify needs; and

WHEREAS, the San Antonio City Council has two discretionary funds available for city council members which focus on safety improvement projects, including installing sidewalks, accessibility and connectivity for residents' preferred modes of transportation, painting crosswalks, street repairs, upgrades to drainage systems, and other safety treatments and capital projects, and these funds are managed by city departments and San Antonio residents and neighborhood organizations can submit project requests and ideas through their council member office and the city's Public Works, Transportation, and Capital Improvements Departments; and

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WHEREAS, the City of Houston also administers council district service funds, where each council member receives a set amount of discretionary funds that they can allocate toward a specific community need such as street repairs, infrastructure enhancements, neighborhood beautification projects, support for local nonprofit organizations, overtime pay for Houston police, staff overtime to expedite residential permitting review requests, park improvements, sidewalk repairs, community center upgrades, and miscellaneous neighborhood enhancement projects, and the projects are updated on a publicly accessible online dashboard with a detailed accounting of how each council district utilizes the discretionary funds and the status of funded projects; and

WHEREAS, discretionary funds can serve as a mechanism that allows council district offices to respond quickly to address community needs and constituent concerns without navigating lengthy city planning and budgetary processes in a way that is responsive and provides attention to minor projects that often get overlooked in the broader budget or delayed by citywide initiatives; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

The City Manager is directed to <u>develop explore</u> a pilot program for implementing Council Member District Service Funds for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget, and the purpose of these funds shall be to address neighborhoodspecific needs of individual council member districts promptly, for use at the discretion of each council member within a recommended legal and ethical framework.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager shall develop recommendations, in collaboration with the City Council offices <u>and the Office of Equity and Inclusion</u>, for the implementation of Council Member District Service Funds, including but not limited to:

- the budgeted amount for each Council District considering factors such as equitable dispersion, areas of historical disinvestment, growth areas, and alignment with the City's Capital Improvement Program,
- any ordinance necessary to meet the City's existing legal and ethical framework including conflict of interest policy and comply with state law regarding the use of public funds, transparency, and reporting,
- a decision-making framework that provides for consistency and transparency in how funding shall be utilized by Council offices, and
- a mechanism for publicly and transparently reporting the utilization of funds and the progress of funded projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager shall report back to Council with recommendations by March 1, 2025 for further Council consideration and input.

ADOPTED:

, 2024

ATTEST:

Myrna Rios City Clerk