1	RESOLUTION NO.
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3	WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the challenges experienced
4	daily by historically marginalized communities (including, but not limited to the
5	geographically isolated, people living with disabilities, etc.); and
6	WHEREAS, the disparate outcomes during the pandemic for low-income
7	families could have been significantly lessened if there was equitable access to
8	additional health care/insurance, technology, and economic opportunity in our
9	community; and
10	WHEREAS, Central Health formed the Central Health Equity Policy (CHEP)
11	Council in 2015 to address health disparities in Travis County; and
12	WHEREAS, the CHEP Council launched the Pandemic Equity Committee in
13	December 2020 to assess health outcomes related to the pandemic and develop
14	recommendations to help ensure that decision-making regarding the City's
15	preparedness, disaster response, and post-disaster community healing and recovery
16	meaningfully accounts for existing and emergent challenges; and
17	WHEREAS, following months of research and discussion, the Pandemic Equity
18	Committee developed recommendations that center equity in the disaster preparedness
19	response, and healing process; and
20	WHEREAS, these recommendations include addressing disaster preparedness
21	by centering equity in the City of Austin Emergency Operations Plan, making it an
22	evergreen document and improving data collection; developing a standard operating
23	procedure (SOP) to ensure funds are allocated towards stipends and training that helps
24	the community better understand how the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) works
25	developing an SOP for communications to be translated into Spanish, the five most
26	spoken Asian languages and any additional languages that may be required; updating

the Hazard Risk Index; considering a long-term goal to establish a dedicated

28	emergency funding stream for providers during a disaster; developing and reviewing
29	after-action reports about previous Central Texas disasters to determine what lessons
30	can be gleaned, including civil unrest in the Hazard Risk Index; including an SOP that
31	uses Social Vulnerability Index and 211 data as baseline data; developing localized
32	emergency response plans for those neighborhoods/areas including working
33	cooperatively with stakeholders in those areas; and identifying an independent party of
34	diversely selected individuals who will review and assess the EOC's response; and
35	WHEREAS, disaster response can be improved by designating a council-
36	approved diverse community panel who will be activated at the beginning of a disaster
37	to inform the process at the highest level of the Incident Command System and
38	engaging behavioral scientists through Central Health, Austin Public Health and the
39	EOC; and
10	WHEREAS, during the November 4, 2021 Austin City Council meeting the
11	office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management presented a briefing on the
12	City's After Action Report related to Winter Storm Uri; and
13	WHEREAS, the Winter Storm Uri after-action report recognized that the storm
14	disproportionately impacted vulnerable populations; and City departments worked to
15	address needs, but there were gaps in planning and operations for unhoused, elderly,
16	lower-income residents, and other vulnerable populations; and
17	WHEREAS, the after-action report recommends to codify the role of the Austin
18	Equity Office in Emergency Operations Center operations and emergency and
19	continuity of operation plans; and
50	WHEREAS, according to the Austin Strategic Direction 2023 "Austin is a
51	beacon of sustainability, social equity and economic opportunity; where diversity and
52	creativity are celebrated; where community needs, and values are recognized;" and
53	WHEREAS, these recommendations should be implemented by the EOC in
54	collaboration with the community: and

55	WHEREAS, it is critical to ensure that future disaster responses include the
56	most vulnerable; NOW, THEREFORE,
57	BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:
58	The Austin City Council supports the recommendations outlined by the
59	Pandemic Equity Committee and wishes to receive updates from the EOC and the
60	Committee on their progress.
61	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:
62	The City Manager is directed to take the necessary steps to implement these
63	recommendations, which shall include:
64	(1) Formalize the role of the Austin Equity Office in Emergency Operations
65	Center operations and emergency and continuity of operation plans, as
66	recommended by the after-action report, and
67	(2) Explore how an advisory panel might be formed to reflect and serve as the
68	community's voice to provide input to City management regarding emergency
69	management response and provide recommendations to council within 90 days of this
70	resolution.
71	
72	ADOPTED: , 2022 ATTEST:
73	Myrna Rios
74	City Clerk