

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

2 **WHEREAS**, renter rights in Austin are more important than ever and
3 should be expanded;

4 **WHEREAS**, Austin is a city that embraces a culture of community, worker,
5 and tenant organizing, and renters should have the freedom to exercise their rights;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, successful organizing has led to improved housing conditions,
8 lower rents, fairer community rules, and has stopped or slowed evictions and
9 displacement; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in several types of federally-subsidized properties—such as
11 project-based Section 8 and Section 811 apartments—renters have the freedom to
12 exercise their rights in ways that should be applied to all renters across Austin; and

13 **WHEREAS**, at least 24 states and D.C. have adopted whistleblower and
14 anti-retaliation protections for tenants who establish or participate in a tenant’s
15 organization that exceed Texas’s retaliation protections; and

16 **WHEREAS**, The Uprooted Project at the University of Texas at Austin
17 recommends tenant organizing rights as an important tool for fighting
18 displacement; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Austin City Council supports renters’ rights and the
20 freedom to assemble and ask for improved conditions and policies impacting their
21 homes; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

23 The City Manager is directed to prepare a code amendment that establishes
24 renters’ rights for Council consideration by the July 28, 2022 Council agenda. To
25 the extent legally and practically feasible, the rights should include the protected
26 tenant organizing activities described in Exhibit A.

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

29 The City Manager is directed to engage stakeholders including the Austin
30 Apartment Association, the Austin Board of Realtors, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid,
31 Building and Strengthening Tenant Action, and Austin Tenants Council in
32 developing the ordinance.

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

34 It is the City Council’s intent that the Civil Rights Office investigate and
35 enforce this renters rights ordinance. The City Manager shall ensure policies and
36 processes for the Housing and Planning Department, the Code Department, the
37 Austin Police Department, and any other relevant department are amended to
38 comply with these rights.

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ADOPTED: _____, 2022 **ATTEST:** _____

Myrna Rios
City Clerk