

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has long been at the forefront of combating climate change by creating policies that reduce carbon emissions, improve the environment and quality of life for residents, and protect our natural resources, biodiversity, and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the origins of these policies include Resolution No. 20070215-023, which initiated critical efforts over the past fifteen years to develop goals and procedures that position Austin as the leading city in the nation in the effort to reduce and reverse the negative impacts of global warming; and

WHEREAS, subsequent existing and current draft policy plans include, but are not limited to, the Austin Climate Equity Plan, Strategic Direction 28 (SD28), the Rain to River Strategic Plan, the Austin Urban Forest Plan, and the Climate Resilience Action Plan for City Assets and Operations; and

WHEREAS, in December of 2022, the United Nations' Convention on Biological Diversity met in Montreal, Canada for the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) and invited individual nations across the globe to collaborate on an agreement to address the root causes of climate change, including nature and biodiversity loss, as well as pollution and waste; and

WHEREAS, since 1972, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has acted as the international authority for the global environment, setting protective standards and promoting the implementation of sustainable development within the United Nations system; and

24 **WHEREAS**, municipalities across continents play an increasingly important
25 role in tackling the climate crisis by collaborating with organizations like the
26 UNEP to increase community resilience and protect natural resources and native
27 ecosystems through shared goals and standards; and

28 **WHEREAS**, at COP15, roughly 190 countries agreed on environmental
29 goals and targets called the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: 23
30 Targets, which include, among other targets, increased preservation and restoration
31 of natural habitats to help prevent a mass extinction event; and

32 **WHEREAS**, the United States of America is one of two invited countries
33 that did not sign on to the COP15 agreement, and yet, the Council acknowledges
34 the important and critical work of the UNEP and COP15 and strives to adopt goals
35 that align with our policies that support the community's values; **NOW**,

36 **THEREFORE**,

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

38 The City Manager is directed to analyze elements from the Kunming-
39 Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: 23 Targets produced at COP15 with the
40 goal of aligning Strategic Direction 28 with applicable elements of the 23 targets
41 and report back to Council as part of the SD28 adoption schedule already in
42 progress.

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

44 The City Manager is directed to analyze elements from the Kunming-
45 Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: 23 Targets with the goal of aligning the
46 City's relevant existing and proposed plans, including, but not limited to, the
47 Austin Climate Equity Plan, the Rain to River Strategic Plan, the Austin Urban

Forest Plan, the Climate Resilience Action Plan for City Assets and Operations, and Imagine Austin, with applicable elements of the 23 targets and report back to Council with the analysis and recommendations necessary for alignment no later than September 15, 2023.

ADOPTED: _____, 2023 **ATTEST:** _____
Myrna Rios
City Clerk