

WHEREAS, Council identified homelessness as the top priority indicator in Austin's Strategic Direction 2023; and

WHEREAS, Council adopted Resolution No. 20180426-030 endorsing the Austin Action Plan to End Homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Council adopted Resolution No. 20190620-184 directing the City Manager to explore a variety of options to address homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the need to assist families and individuals by providing temporary housing during extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, vulnerable populations are at risk during all types of extreme weather events and may require emergency sheltering; and

WHEREAS, prior limited planning, low-temperature thresholds, and brief registration hours have had a significant negative effect on public safety agencies, who have responded outside of regular business hours, on weekends, and during holidays, and on the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, community organizations have organized independently and parallel to the City to ensure unsheltered residents have equal access to shelters and services during inclement weather response; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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24 The City Manager is directed to continue discussions with stakeholders and
25 subject matter experts regarding extreme weather events and shelter activation
26 criteria and processes, including but not limited to the following considerations:

- 27 • The unique risk factors of vulnerable populations;
- 28 • The material, logistical and psychological barriers that prevent unhoused
29 residents from having equal access to shelter;
- 30 • Ways to alleviate any uncertainty within the populations served by
31 extreme weather shelters with registering and staying sheltered, including
32 earlier activation of the shelters, working with community advocates to
33 provide more notice opportunities to the public of shelter activation,
34 expanding registration hours and locations, and pausing encampment
35 cleanups until shelters are deactivated;
- 36 • Engagement with individuals who have lived experience to obtain
37 feedback regarding their stay at extreme weather shelters; and
- 38 • Consideration of partnerships to improve staffing of the shelters and staff
39 training in de-escalation and trauma informed care.

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

41 The City Manager will report back to the Council by June 15, 2023, on (1)
42 recommendations to expand the City's weather sheltering plan to include all
43 extreme weather events and (2) the feedback and suggestions from the stakeholders
44 and subject matter experts to address activation, registration, transportation and
45 other issues related to the City's response to sheltering during extreme weather
46 events.

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49 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2023

ATTEST: _____

50 Myrna Rios
51 City Clerk
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