

1 **RESOLUTION NO. _____**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin is committed to promoting successful pet
4 ownership and ensuring the welfare of animals within its jurisdiction; and

5 **WHEREAS**, national no-kill organizations like Best Friends Animal
6 Society state that “it is the responsibility of every owner to ensure that their pet
7 is microchipped” in order to facilitate quick and accurate return of lost animals
8 to their owners; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the City recognizes the pressing issue of overcrowding in
10 the City's animal shelter, leading to increased strain on resources, limited
11 capacity to care for animals, and a higher risk of euthanasia for adoptable pets;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, microchipping pets can significantly reduce the number of
14 animals entering shelters, thereby reducing the burden on the animal shelter
15 system and allowing for more efficient use of limited resources; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Texas state law currently requires spay/neuter for all
17 adopted animals to control the population of unaltered pets; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the City seeks to complement the spay/neuter state program
19 by implementing a comprehensive approach that includes the mandatory
20 microchipping all local pets, thereby enhancing successful pet ownership,
21 reducing shelter intake, and improving the likelihood of reuniting lost pets with
22 their owners; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the City desires to promote community education and
24 awareness regarding the benefits and importance of microchipping, as well as
25 the resources available to assist residents in complying with this requirement;
26 and

27 **WHEREAS**, the City intends to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to
28 implement an effective and efficient system for microchipping pets, ensuring
29 accessibility, affordability, and compliance; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

31 The City Council directs the City Manager to initiate a code amendment
32 which emphasizes the responsibility of owners to microchip all pet animals
33 within the boundaries of the City of Austin with a non-criminal and non-
34 compensatory enforcement mechanism which prioritizes compliance through
35 education and services; and

36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

37 The City Council directs the City Manager to evaluate the City's current
38 free microchip measures and adjust those measures such that any resident whose
39 pet has not yet been microchipped may freely access such services; and

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

41 The City Council directs the City Manager to ensure that all Animal
42 Protection Officers and vehicles, all Austin Police Stations, all Austin Fire
43 Stations, all Austin Recreation Centers, and all Austin Public Libraries are
44 outfitted with microchip scanners; and

46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

47 The City Council directs the City Manager to train an appropriate number
48 of employees at all microchip locations to scan microchips as needed for the
49 public; and

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

51 The City Council directs the City Manager to develop and implement a
52 public education program which educates citizens on the microchip requirement,
53 its enforcement mechanisms, and the availability of free microchip services
54 throughout the City; and

55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

56 The City Council directs the City Manager to coordinate with the Animal
57 Services Office to inspect Austin Animal Center policies, processes, and general
58 staff practices, and to eliminate all such processes, policies, and general staff
59 practices which would limit the application of the microchipping program or any
60 other standard no-kill sheltering support practice which complies with national
61 sheltering and no-kill standards in line with the goals of the City of Austin; and

62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

63 The City Council directs the City Manager to coordinate with the Animal
64 Services Office to inspect the administrative policies, processes, and
65 administrative staff practices, and to eliminate all such policies, processes, and
66 administrative staff practices which limit administrative staff from complying
67 with the microchipping program and any other standard no-kill administrative
68 practice which complies with national sheltering and no-kill standards in line with
69 the goals of the City of Austin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council directs the City Manager to coordinate with the Animal Services Office to inspect the veterinary policies, processes, and veterinary staff practices, and to eliminate all such policies, processes, and veterinary staff practices which limit veterinarians from complying with the microchipping program and any other standard no-kill veterinary practice which complies with national veterinary and no-kill standards in line with the goals of the City of Austin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council directs the City Manager to coordinate with the Animal Services Office to inspect the volunteer/foster staff policies, processes, and volunteer/foster staff practices, and to eliminate all such policies, processes, and volunteer/foster staff practices which limit volunteer/foster staff from complying with the microchipping program and any other standard no-kill volunteer/foster staff practice which complies with national volunteer/foster and no-kill standards in line with the goals of the City of Austin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council directs the City Manager to return to the City Council with an update at Work Session by November 28, 2023. The update should contain the following: a draft ordinance for Council consideration; a status report on the implementation of microchipping services; and a summary of planned and completed process and policy evaluations with any related proposed changes.

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