

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

2 **WHEREAS**, in July 2021, Council passed the Safer 6th Street Initiative
3 (Resolution No. 20210729-175) to initiate a series of actions aimed at creating
4 safer conditions in Austin’s entertainment district; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Safer 6th Street Initiative directed the City Manager to
6 implement a more comprehensive strategy toward the Historic Sixth Street District
7 (6th Street District) that maximizes its assets, embraces new opportunities, and
8 ensures a safer environment for all; and

9 **WHEREAS**, as documented in staff memos from October 5, 2021, and
10 December 27, 2021, (Exhibits A and B), outcomes from the Safer 6th Initiative
11 have included the formation of an interdepartmental team; lighting improvements;
12 joint actions with Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission to curb underage
13 drinking; brainstorming of ways to activate public spaces; consideration of an
14 entertainment license program; and beginning a nightlife management plan; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the staff’s December 27, 2021, memo (included as Exhibit B)
16 also included recommendations for next steps; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

18 The City Manager is directed to create pilot programs for the installation of
19 seating, dining, and small-scale activations in the right of way on the 200, 500, 600
20 and 700 blocks of 6th Street to support the goal of adding more diverse uses and
21 amenities and thus expanding the audience of people who recreate in the area. The
22 City Council supports staff’s proposed “Pilot Program 1” that includes activations
23 for seating, dining, and other activities during 6th Street closures which occur on
24 Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. The City Manager is directed to finalize
25 program criteria, requirements, and the application process and to implement this

26 program by May 1, 2022; and to bring to Council an ordinance to waive fees
27 associated with this pilot program.

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

29 The City Council endorses City staff's recommendation that any future
30 redesign or rebuild of 6th Street or the streetscape include dedicated pedestrian
31 lighting solutions. The City Manager is directed to formalize this intent as
32 necessary and to provide feedback by June 1, 2022, as to whether temporary
33 lighting could achieve a similar effect in the interim.

34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

35 The City Manager shall initiate a lighting study to identify gaps in the street
36 light network throughout the 6th Street District with work to be completed before
37 Council embarks on Fiscal Year 2023 budget deliberations.

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

39 The City Manager shall prioritize the work with property owners in the area
40 to encourage them to add temporary or permanent lighting on their properties,
41 especially along alleys.

42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

43 The City Manager is directed to prepare the necessary ordinance(s) to create
44 an annual entertainment permit with an accompanying safety plan for places of
45 assembly operating in the 6th Street District with operating hours after 12 a.m.

46 The Council agrees with staff's recommendation that the annual
47 entertainment permit incorporate the inspections, reviews, and approvals required
48 for the operating permit issued by the Austin Fire Department (AFD) for fire

49 prevention and the outdoor music venue permit issued by the Development
50 Services Department (DSD) for the use of sound equipment.

51 The Council supports staff's suggestion that the existing process used for
52 outdoor music venue permits be used for the new entertainment permit and that the
53 Entertainment Services Group coordinate the process and serve as a liaison to
54 permit holders. The City Manager shall present the ordinance(s) to Council as soon
55 as possible.

56 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

57 The City Manager is directed to continue working with all 6th Street bar
58 owners and stakeholders to encourage written safety plans, training for door staff,
59 increased communication with the Austin Police Department, peer-to-peer
60 communication, and codes of conduct that outline expected standards of behavior
61 for staff and patrons, which includes a plan to prioritize the prevention of underage
62 drinking.

63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

64 The City Manager is directed to provide Council with regular written
65 updates on the planning currently underway to create a dedicated Emergency
66 Medical Services presence and staging area on 6th Street that will allow for safer
67 and faster treatment and extrication of individuals needing medical attention.

68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

69 After the forthcoming Spring Festival events, the City Manager shall
70 communicate to Council any new findings or recommendations with regard to
71 safety and mobility as informed by this year's festival activities.
72

73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

74 The City Manager is directed to explore ways to implement safe gun storage
75 options and policies for evacuees that the City hosts during times of disaster.

76 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

77 By May 1, 2022, the City Manager shall provide Council with information
78 about previous City-sponsored gun buyback programs (total costs and number of
79 weapons obtained). The City Manager shall also provide Council with a
80 recommendation as to whether or not the City should establish a new gun buyback
81 program and to provide information about potential funding sources should a new
82 gun buyback program be recommended.

83 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

84 The City Council desires to take a strong stance against establishments with
85 records of repeated violent incidents taking place among their customers. Using
86 Houston as a model and within the next 45 days, the City Council requests
87 information about legal options that may be available to the City to address
88 establishments with such records.

89 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

90 To encourage a broader array of uses in the 6th Street area, the City Manager
91 shall propose a pilot program by June 1, 2022, that provides incentives or loans to
92 owners of historic buildings in the 6th Street District who seek to add kitchens. The
93 City Manager shall also recommend possible funding sources for such a program,
94 including whether the 6th Street Public Improvement District (PID) could be a
95 viable funding source for these incentives or loans.

97 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

98 The City Manager shall initiate a new historic survey of the 6th Street
99 District that identifies contributing and non-contributing properties and provides
100 guidance on how non-contributing properties could be redeveloped in a manner
101 that maintains the cohesiveness and integrity of the historic district.

102 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

103 The City Manager shall work collaboratively with the Downtown Austin
104 Alliance on public realm improvements aimed at creating a safer and more family-
105 friendly atmosphere in the 6th Street District, including such strategies as the
106 installation of decorative planters, public art and programming, the active
107 storefront program, and a pilot program for alley activation and public market on
108 Sabine Street. The City Manager shall report to Council on the progress of this
109 collaboration by June 1, 2022. The City Manager is directed to bring an ordinance
110 to Council to waive fees associated with these activations.

111
112 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2022 **ATTEST:** _____

113 Myrna Rios
114 City Clerk
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