

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, Hostelling International – Austin, for the past 23 years, has provided a service to the City of Austin by providing safe, affordable alternative accommodations to world travelers visiting our city at its location on Lakeshore Drive; and

WHEREAS, Hostelling International – Austin in 2011 had over 14,000 overnight stays with visitors from over 35 countries; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 over 500 community members and 130 volunteers participated in community education programs for youth and adults to encourage cultural awareness and appreciation at Hostelling International – Austin, in coordination with the Girl Scouts, REI, Keep Austin Beautiful and other non-profits; and

WHEREAS, the hostel's Cultural Kitchens program allows middle and high school students and Girl Scouts an opportunity to learn about other countries and cultures by studying a particular place as a group and preparing a meal from that culture as well as meeting travelers from all over the world; and

WHEREAS, the Community Walls program at the hostel allows local youth to explore their community and then create a piece of art showcasing their city. They present their work at a reception at the hostel where they can mingle with hostel guests of different nationalities to discuss their art and learn about other cultures; and

WHEREAS, in coordination with REI, Hostelling International - Austin staff and volunteers teach travel classes to local residents on topics

such as vegan travel, woman traveling abroad alone and budget family travel as well as sponsoring a travel club at the University of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Hostelling International – Austin has practiced sustainable living through such practices as participating in Green Choice, planting a community garden, recycling, and installing solar panels on the roof as well as participating in the annual Lady Bird Lake Cleanup; and

WHEREAS, the East Riverside- Oltorf Neighborhood Plan Contact Team has identified the hostel as an asset to their neighborhood and supports its continued presence on Lakeshore Drive; and

WHEREAS, most hostel guests arrive via public transportation rather than automobile, therefore proximity to the attractions of downtown and good access to public transportation are essential; and

WHEREAS, the existing Hostelling International – Austin location on Lakeshore Drive fulfills both those requirements; and

WHEREAS, Hostelling International - Austin agrees, at its expense, to make the needed infrastructure improvements to the property as 2200 S. Lakeshore Blvd to ensure the hostel is operated safely and efficiently; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that Hostelling International – Austin serves an important role in our community by increasing cultural awareness for Austin residents as well as visitors to our City and that its present location is ideal to provide its services; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF AUSTIN:

The Council directs the City Manager to prepare and execute an agreement with Hostelling International - Austin that allows the hostel to continue to occupy the building at 2200 S. Lakeshore Drive for a period of at least ten years with terms similar to the current agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

In the future, the Parks and Recreation Department and the City Manager are encouraged to examine opportunities for additional concessions to be added to the property.

ADOPTED: _____, 2012

ATTEST: _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk