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**Resolution Calling Upon the AISD Board of Trustees To
Commit To a Public Consensus Building Process for
Early Childhood Education and Preservation of
Neighborhood Schools**

February 18, 2006

WHEREAS, The Austin Independent School District (AISD) has recently proposed a controversial measure to redesignate several public schools, a move that would result in the busing of hundreds of pre-school and elementary-age children, many from the district’s lowest socio-economic areas; and,

WHEREAS, Liveable City’s mission is to address the long-term social, environmental, and economic needs of Austinites who have identified Quality Public Schools as a top priority for a livable city; and,

WHEREAS, Liveable City believes community consensus, achieved over time through an inclusive process, is essential for actions that significantly effect change in our community; and,

WHEREAS, Liveable City believes that neighborhood schools build strong communities, encourage parental involvement and have a positive effect on our environment by allowing families and children to walk or bike to school; and,

WHEREAS, Liveable City encourages the use of best practices, including public discussion and consensus-building, and to ensure the availability of high-quality pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs in our community; and,

WHEREAS, Liveable City believes that educating pre-kindergarten children within their neighborhoods and centering neighborhood identity on public schools are essential components of a healthy city; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, That Liveable City calls upon the AISD Board of Trustees to establish a timeline of not less than a full academic year to allow thorough public discussion and consensus-building regarding the proposal to redesignate Oak Springs Elementary, Becker Elementary and Porter Middle School; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Liveable City calls upon the AISD Board of Trustees to partner with existing organizations in the community engaged in early childhood education to develop a consensus building process and solutions to inform and empower citizens and policymakers about the challenges and goals AISD faces in improving elementary and early childhood education in Austin.

