

By: Cole

H.R. No. 23

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Austin lost a visionary civic leader  
2 with the passing of former city council member Chris Riley on July  
3 28, 2024, at the age of 60; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Eva and Peter Riley, Chris Riley was born  
5 in Austin in 1964; he worked as a congressional page in Washington,  
6 D.C., as an Austin High School student; after receiving a  
7 bachelor's degree in economics from Harvard University, he  
8 completed his law degree at The University of Texas at Austin; he  
9 was employed by the Texas Supreme Court before entering private  
10 practice; a dedicated urbanist, he made his home in downtown Austin  
11 when the residential population was in decline, and in 1997 he  
12 cofounded the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association, which he  
13 later served as president; preferring to commute by bike, he got rid  
14 of his car, and he encouraged greater use of Wooldridge Square Park  
15 by picking up trash and bringing a giant chess set to the park for  
16 weekly games; he also led Bike Austin before facilitating its  
17 merger with other groups to form Safe Streets Austin; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Riley served for seven years on the Planning  
19 Commission and won election to the city council in 2009; during two  
20 terms in office, he championed greater density to provide more  
21 housing; he was instrumental in the city's adoption of its Bicycle  
22 Master Plan and the National Association of City Transportation  
23 Officials' street design standards, recognizing the need for better  
24 infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists; moreover, his

1 passionate advocacy eventually led the city to embrace such  
2 concepts as parking reform, accessory dwelling units, and mass  
3 transit-adjacent density; continuing his mission in private life,  
4 he earned a master's degree in urban placemaking and management  
5 from the Pratt Institute in New York; and

6 WHEREAS, Chris Riley helped guide Austin's progress as a  
7 vibrant, well-connected city, and his kindness, integrity, and  
8 devotion to his community will remain a source of inspiration to all  
9 who were privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas  
11 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Chris Riley and extend  
12 sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife, Denise  
13 Brady; to his parents, Eva and Peter Riley; to his siblings, Joan  
14 Laves Reitblatt and her husband, David, Ken Riley, and Michael  
15 Riley and his wife, Virginia; and to his many other relatives and  
16 friends; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
18 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
19 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Chris  
20 Riley.