

2018-2019 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT: Convention Center

REQUEST NO.: 21

REQUESTED BY: Pool

DATE REQUESTED: 6/12/18

DATE POSTED: 7/10/18

REQUEST: During the April 4th Budget Work Session, to the Convention Center temporarily staffing up for what was described as the “Superbowl of Conventions” in 2017. Are these temporary employees leaving as part of the Convention Center’s staffing projections for FY 2019?

RESPONSE:

The unique nature of the Austin Convention Center Department (ACCD) operations requires the use of temporary/contract employees, primarily in areas that are driven by the events as they occur. The ACCD draws from a pool of temporary employees on an as-needed basis to support event requirements. Those staffing services are discontinued while in the interim, when the supplementary staffing services are no longer needed and reinstated as the event need arises. The size, complexity, and concurrency of events are factors in determining the need for temporary staffing, which is the case for staffing projections each fiscal year, including FY 2019.

In addition, to supplement the pool of temporary staff that the Austin Convention Center employs directly, the Austin Convention Center has a contract with two staffing agencies, Texas Industries for the Blind and Handicapped (TIBH) and Champion National Security, to utilize as the staff demand for events arises. Furthermore, the Convention Center also contracts with a vendor to provide catering and concessions services. This vendor provides staffing on-site to fulfill delivery of these services.

In FY 2019, although the temporary hours utilized for the FY 2017 PCMA event will not be needed in FY 2019, the pool will be utilized for FY 2019 events that require temporary services. The number of hours of temporary staffing required in FY 2019 is unknown at this time, since the event schedule is continuously evolving, and will continue to do so throughout FY 2019. As the event schedule becomes more defined throughout FY 2019, the needs will also become more defined, and the staffing pool will be utilized to meet those specific business needs.