

AGENDA



Thursday, April 10, 2008

Aviation

Item No. 8

RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Subject: Approve an Ordinance amending Chapter 13-1, Aviation Services of the City Code to be consistent with Federal Transportation Security requirements concerning access media, and performance of certain airport security functions.

For More Information: David Petersen, General Counsel, 530-7526.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Austin Airport Advisory Commission.

The Department of Aviation is proposing a number of technical amendments to Chapter 13-1, Aviation Services of the City Code.

Under applicable Federal Security Regulations, the Aviation Department, as Airport operator, is responsible for airport security. Airport security is only partially a law enforcement function, and is more concerned with physical security of, and controlling access to, various restricted areas of the Airport, such as the Air Operations Area (airfield), and other responsibilities which do not require a commissioned peace officer.

Since July 2004, when management of the Airport Police, Parks Police and the City Marshals were combined into a separate Public Safety and Emergency Management (PSEM) Department, the Aviation Department has performed many routine security functions through its operations staff. When PSEM was created, Chapter 13-1 of the City Code concerning Aviation was amended deleting sections 13-1-51 and 13-1-52, which established an airport police section of the Aviation Department and prescribed their duties, but Chapter 13-1 continued to include numerous references to "airport police". This amendment replaces references to "airport police" with references to "airport operations specialists" for those security functions which do not require a law enforcement officer. For those functions which do require a commissioned peace officer, the more generic term "police officer" is used.

This amendment does not affect, nor is it affected by, a possible consolidation of PSEM officers into the Austin Police Department.

This amendment also implements Federal Transportation Security Regulations which mandated certain changes regarding access media (so called airport badges).