



Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Board **Annual Internal Review**

(This report covers the time period of 7/1/2016 to 6/30/2017)

Mission Statement: The mission of the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Board (“Board”), according to § 2-1-130 of the City Code, is to “**advise the Downtown Austin Community Court on policy and operational issues, and advise the council on the policies and operations of the court.**” The purpose of the Downtown Austin Community Court is to collaboratively address the quality of life issues of all residents in the downtown Austin community through the swift, creative sentencing of public order offenders. The Court seeks to hold people responsible while also offering help to change behavior.

- 1. Describe the Board’s actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the committee’s mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**

During the reporting period (7/1/2016 to 6/30/2017), the Board met seven (7) times on a (approximately) bi-monthly basis. All meetings were posted to and open to the public. Our primary actions during this time were:

Organizational: We requested that the City Council change the name of the former Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory *Committee* to the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory *Board*, and asked that our enabling ordinance be amended to reflect this Board’s ability to advise the City Council on the policies and operations of the Court. These requests were fulfilled in December 2016, by City Ordinance No. 20161208-015. We amended our bylaws to reflect these changes, and we elected our officers.

Educational: We received presentations on a regular basis from homeless individuals who have interacted with the Community Court, along with their Case Managers, including individuals with and without prior criminal histories. We received regular updates and information concerning the Homelessness Outreach Street Team pilot program, the Sobriety Center, the court’s facilities, and rental assistance grant opportunities. We began receiving regular updates on available data and statistics for the

Community Court. We received a presentation on the regulations affecting boarding houses in the City of Austin.

Recommendations and Other Actions:

We passed a “Recommendation for Budget Funding for the Homelessness Outreach Street Team” in July 2016.

We made a Community Announcement and had a member (and court staff) attend the Austin/Travis County Sobriety Center Informational Forum in September 2016.

Two of our members accepted invitations to join a stakeholders’ group implemented by City Council Resolution 20160811-037, concerning Municipal Court Fines and Fair Treatment of Indigent Defendants.

We requested the creation of a Facebook page and an updated brochure for the Community Court, in order to increase the public’s awareness of the work that the Community Court does.

2. Determine if the Board’s actions throughout the reporting period comply with the mission statement.

Yes, the Board’s actions during this reporting period comply with the Board’s mission statement. All of the educational aspects of our meetings, described above, were designed to enable us to understand the policy and operational aspects of the Community Court, so that we may give informed advice to the Community Court with regard to Community Court policies and operations. Our recommendation and actions were built upon that knowledge, and offered in support of the policies and operations of the Community Court.

3. List the board’s goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

Our goals for the upcoming year include:

- continue to learn about, monitor, and support the implementation of best practices for the Community Court’s policies and operations;
- continue to learn about, monitor, and support the Community Court’s efforts to reduce recidivism and homelessness;
- continue to learn about, monitor, and support the Community Court’s collaboration with other agencies to address the needs of the homeless individuals who interact with the Community Court;
- continue to work with the Community Court and others to address the facility and budget needs of the Community Court; and
- continue to work on increasing public awareness of the work of the Community Court, its various programs, and the benefits it provides to the Austin community.

Annual Review and Work Plan

7/1/2016 to 6/30/2017

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