



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

**(This report covers the time period of 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018)**

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Board (“Board”), according to § 2-1-131 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. Downtown Austin Community Court Case Management aims to end homelessness by providing comprehensive, long term services to individuals experiencing homelessness.

- 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 (7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018), the Board met five (5) times on (approximately) a bi-monthly basis.

**Organizational (Attendance Issues):** At our September 2017 meeting, with seven members in attendance, we agreed upon a calendar for 2018 calendar year. Our November 2017 meeting began with six members present, but was cut short after 30 minutes due to the loss of a quorum. Six members attended the January 2018 meeting. Six members ultimately attended our March 2018 meeting—but it started 20 minutes late due to lack of a quorum. Our May 2018 meeting had to be cancelled due to lack of a quorum. At our June 2018 meeting, we discussed these attendance and quorum issues the Advisory Board has been having, and the members present agreed to work on addressing these attendance/quorum issues in the coming year.

**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. In September 2017, we received a presentation by Measure-Austin on Big Data and Community Policing on the topics of public safety policing, mental health, education reform, and displacement/gentrification. In January 2018, we received a presentation on the Community Court

contracts and budget planning. A working group was created to work on the Community Court's funding needs and a proposed resolution on that topic. In June 2018, we received a presentation on the FY2019 City of Austin budget process. We received regular updates and information concerning the Homelessness Outreach Street Team ("HOST"), the Sobering Center, and Community Court data and Statistics.

**Recommendations and Other Actions:** In March 2018, we passed Resolution No. 20180323-001, concerning "FY19 Budget Funding for the Downtown Austin Community Court." In June-July 2018, a working group was created to consider and recommend the goals for the Advisory Board for the coming year. The working group met with Judge Coffey and Community Court staff, and consulted with the Downtown Austin Alliance, to arrive at the goals that are set out below.

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

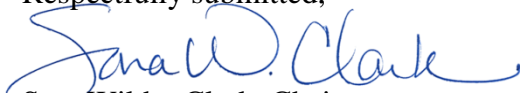
Yes, the Board's actions during this reporting period comply with the Board's mission statement. However, as noted above, the Board has struggled with attendance and quorum issues. This has undoubtedly limited the extent of the actions throughout the reporting period that the Board has been able to accomplish.

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

Our goals and objectives for the upcoming year include:

- Explore options and develop recommendations to City Council for modifying the operations of the Community Court to improve access to services for people experiencing homelessness and provide adequate funding to support that goal, including, but not limited to: (1) making the Community Court a court only for people experiencing homelessness, (2) expanding the Community Court's geographic boundaries and/or creating additional Community Court operations in other areas of town, and/or (3) increasing the operational hours of the Community Court.
- Explore options for additional funding sources for the Community Court to meet the goal of ending homelessness in Austin by providing stable housing and comprehensive, long-term services to individuals experiencing homelessness, to include, but not be limited to grants, federal funding programs, and City budget allocations.
- 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.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sara Wilder Clark, Chair