

RESOLUTION NO. 20051020-042

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

WHEREAS, there were over 14,000 non-traffic related charges filed against juveniles and parents in Travis County between August 1, 2004 and July 31, 2005; and

WHEREAS, truancy (or chronic, unexcused absences) has been shown to correlate with adult criminality and other reduced quality of life measures; and

WHEREAS, the high volume case loads at Travis County Justice of the Peace Courts and the Austin Municipal Court often do not allow for: a timely consideration of juvenile cases; a thorough exploration and consideration of the specific circumstances of the defendants and their families; the consideration of alternatives for the disposition of the juvenile cases that take these circumstances into account; and

WHEREAS, HB 1575, which was passed by the state legislature in 2005, provides a funding mechanism to provide case management services for juvenile offenders; and

WHEREAS, a 1994 City Auditor's report found that "the Austin/Travis County policy-making process is not designed to support collaboration," and a follow-up audit in 2004 found that "there continues to be a need for coordinating

agency efforts to effectively address juvenile crime and truancy issues in Austin;"; and

WHEREAS, increased collaboration between the City of Austin, Travis County and the Austin Independent School District (AISD) on juvenile justice cases will benefit each governmental entity due to a reduction in cases, increased school attendance, and a reduction in the likelihood that juveniles will re-offend; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council supports the creation of a City of Austin, Travis County and the Austin Independent School District Joint Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice to analyze options for establishing an integrated juvenile justice program given the opportunities that have been created as a result of the passage of HB 1575.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Joint Subcommittee will consist of two representatives from each elected body.

ADOPTED: October 20, 2005

ATTEST: _____

Shirley A. Brown
City Clerk