

**Agenda Questions/Responses  
September 01, 2005**

- 3. What are the penalties for Class C misdemeanors? Would this create a criminal record for offenders? Would a Class C misdemeanor be reported on employment background checks? (Council Member Jennifer Kim)**

A Class C misdemeanor is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500, or if the offense is a violation of an ordinance that governs fire safety, zoning, or public health and sanitation, including dumping of refuse, the offense is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$2,000. An air quality regulation such as the proposed ordinance governs public health. There would be a criminal record for the person convicted of the offense. The offense would be reported on an employment background check only if a check was conducted of the City's municipal court records. The Department of Public Safety will not have a record of the violation.

- 10. What are "Safe Havens?" How many FTE's will this fund? Are we obligated to continue this program after the DOJ grant ends? (Council Member Jennifer Kim)**

Safe Havens are sites (such as nonprofit organizations, recreation centers, etc) that provide social services as part of the Weed and Seed program. The Safe Havens do not require that any new FTEs be funded. The City is not required to fund the program after the DOJ grant ends, but is encouraged to work with the community (in this case, Central East Austin residents) to sustain the programs after the DOJ grant ends.

- 26. Why has the Airport Advisory Board not weighed in on this? I was under the assumption that staff had 90 days to try to get a Board or Commission determination. (Council Member Lee Leffingwell)**

Please see attached response which has also been sent via email to Council offices.

- 31. Does this equipment provide for a fail-safe recording of events from APD vehicles? Explain how the systems work. (Council Member Lee Leffingwell)**

Please see attached response which has also been sent via email to Council offices.

- 32. Does this equipment provide for a fail-safe recording of events from APD vehicles? Explain how the systems work. (Council Member Lee Leffingwell)**

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**35. Have staff give a more layman-like description of the Digital Convergence Initiative. (Council Member Lee Leffingwell)**

Convergence refers to the power of digital media to combine voice, video, data, text, and money in new applications, devices and networks. As more and more of our tools become computers, they can be merged into machines that do many things that were previously handled by separate devices. For example a cell phone can also be used for email, Internet and as a positioning system. These functions converge in one digital device, and that's what is meant by digital convergence. Because digital convergence involves several sectors (e.g. computer manufacturing, game development, digital video and cinema, digital music), in an area where many or all of those industries are present, you can envision a cluster of clusters, or super cluster. Texas has all of these business sectors, especially along the IH35 corridor from Waco through Austin to San Antonio. The Digital Convergence Initiative provides the focused effort and commitment required to create this super cluster.

What is the Digital Convergence Initiative (DCI)?

The Digital Convergence Initiative is a public/private venture to facilitate the growth of the digital-oriented industrial and scientific base of Central Texas to:

- Create regional and U.S. competitive advantage in the international digital market;
- Advance economic opportunities for regional businesses with attention to small business growth; and
- Align institutional and private sector digital-oriented research and development with consumer demands and government requirements.

Instigated by IC<sup>2</sup>, The DCI includes the corridor from Waco, Austin, to San Antonio.\* By connecting the regional entities and leveraging the convergence of these separate industries; DCI will create a super economic cluster in Central Texas that will be a leader in a 21st Century global convergence economy.

CTM is a participant and partner in regional technology initiatives. The City of Austin will directly benefit from the Digital Convergence Initiative's results of the research on new technologies, keeping the City abreast of new technologies. Our relationship also establishes a strong network of allies within the Central Texas region. As CTM does not have a research and development function, participation in the DCI would serve to meet our needs to stay abreast of new technologies and how they will affect the City of Austin and our regional partners.

\*Note:

IC<sup>2</sup> Institute is an international, trans-disciplinary "Think and Do" tank devoted to solving unstructured problems to accelerate wealth & job creation and shared prosperity at home and abroad. As a research unit at The University of Texas at Austin, IC<sup>2</sup> is focused on knowledge exploration, dissemination, and application, across a broad range of academic and applied areas.

- 36. Please provide an outline of the when this ordinance has come before Council for consideration. Please also list the questions asked by all council members when this ordinance was first posted for a public hearing and the times it was posted for action this year, as well as the responses. Regarding the new proposal, how many billboards could potentially be relocated? How many billboards are currently located along roadways to which billboards could be relocated? Please provide the total number of billboards for each individual roadway. (Council Member Raul Alvarez)**

This item is postponed to September 29, 2005.



## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mayor Wynn and City Council Members

**FROM:** Jim Smith, Executive Director  
Aviation Department

**DATE:** August 22, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Environmental Sciences RCA scheduled for 9/1/05

The Department of Aviation's Airport Advisory Commission (AAC) was established with nine members. Currently there are two vacancies leaving seven members. The quorum per the Ordinance establishing the AAC is set at five. The AAC has had continuing difficulty getting a quorum to conduct business.

The business of the Airport (Department of Aviation) must proceed; many of our items are time sensitive due to bid and/or RFP timelines, airport security regulations and other government requirements. The Department tries to plan ahead to insure items can go before the AAC for consideration but lack of quorums is preventing this from happening.

Therefore, the RCA for Environmental Sciences should be considered for Council action on September 1, 2005.



Jim Smith  
Executive Director

Xc: Toby Futrell, City Manager  
John Stephens, Chief Financial Officer

**Response to AMS Questions for Items 31 & 32 on September 1, 2005 Agenda  
APD Mobile-Vision In-Car Video/Audio System Summary**

While no technology fail safe, the Wireless Office that supports the video equipment, and reports a very low incident of equipment failure. CTM-Wireless has installed and maintained just more than 400 of the Mobile-Vision in-car law enforcement camera systems (mostly APD) over the past couple of years. On an annual basis, we have seen less than 30 that we would classify as product failures - such as an internal problem with the recorder, camera malfunction, defective body microphone, etc. The Mobile-Vision depot maintenance facility in Dallas has provided the City with excellent repair turn-around - usually is one-working day. Compared to other brands of in-car law enforcement camera systems that CTM-Wireless has maintained in the past, the Mobile-Vision product has proven to be the most reliable and performed the best. The Mobile Vision system requested is used by over 1,100 departments in the State of Texas, including Department Public Safety.

**Equipment List**

The Mobile-Vision In-Car Video/Audio system consists of the following pieces of equipment:

- Mobile-Vision VHS video vault (mounted in the trunk)
- Mobile-Vision Camera (mounted below passenger side sun visor)
- Overhead Monitor and Control Console (mounted above rear view mirror)
- Voicelink Plus Microphone Docking Station (mounted between the front seats)
- Voicelink Plus Wireless Microphone (also referred to as officer's body microphone)
- Rear-seat prisoner compartment mounted microphone

**Operation**

The operation begins with unlocking the VHS recorder vault (mounted in the vehicle trunk), and inserting a VHS tape. The vault is then locked, and is ready to record or playback.

There are four ways to turn on the record function of the unit:

1. Control Unit - APD patrol cars are outfitted with a control unit to activate and de-activate emergency lights and to trigger camera recordings. There is an off position and three additional positions. Position #1 turns on overhead emergency warning lights that face the rear of the patrol car. Position #2 adds in lights facing the front and sides, and triggers the video recorder in the vehicle trunk to record. Position #3 adds in flashing patrol car headlights. So, when the switch is in Position #3, all lights are on facing all directions, and the video camera recorder is recording.
2. Turning on the siren.
3. Activating the momentary switch on the officer's body microphone.
4. Manually turning on the unit using the overhead console record button.

Turning on any of these inputs will also activate the officer's wireless body microphone.

Hitting the stop button on the overhead console is the only method to turn off the recorder unit and body microphone.

There is amber light visible through the windshield that indicates the recorder is on, so an officer can look at the front of the car and see that the recorder is recording.

The recorder will continue to operate until the stop button is pushed on the overhead console, or the unit runs out of tape.

Under current Austin Police Department policy (General Order A318), officers are required to test their cameras, recorders, and tapes at the beginning of each duty shift. Mobile video recording equipment will be used to record all:

1. Traffic stops
2. pedestrian stops (by audio when out of camera range)
3. Sobriety tests; and
4. Pursuits, until completion of enforcement action.

APD supervisors spot-check the officers for compliance.