



Thursday, December 14, 2006

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Item(s) from Council
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION


ITEM No. 44

Subject: Approve a resolution creating a Public Safety Task Force

Sponsor: Council Member Mike Martinez

Co-Sponsor1: Mayor Will Wynn

Co-Sponsor2: Council Member Lee Leffingwell

Additional Backup Material
(click to open)
 **Resolution**

For More Information: Bobby Garza

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, one of the primary duties of government is to provide for the safety of its people and to ensure an awareness of the measures in place for their continued protection; and

WHEREAS, a Public Safety Task Force was created by the City Council in 2002 to assess the state of readiness and local entities' ability to respond to possible threats and acts of violence; and

WHEREAS, a need continues to exist for assessing the current state of the public safety departments, including the level of readiness in the wake of possible threats and acts of violence; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

1. The Public Safety Task Force is created to advise the Austin City Council on all matters related to Public Safety. The Task Force shall identify any gaps and prioritize core problems/deficiencies in public safety.
2. The Public Safety Task Force shall consist of 25 members appointed by the Council for a term of three (3) years. Notwithstanding the membership of the Task Force, a quorum for the conduct of business is a majority of active members. The City Manager shall assign members of City staff to attend task force meetings and assist the task

force in areas of the staff member's expertise, including police, fire, emergency medical services, public health, emergency management, delivery of medical services, and hazardous materials management.

3. Council Member Martinez shall serve as chair and Council Member Leffingwell shall serve as vice-chair. Council Member Dunkerley shall serve as a member. Council Member Martinez may fill any vacancy that may occur.
4. The Public Safety Task Force shall make policy recommendations to the City Council relating to gaps and core deficiencies/problems in the local strategy that secures Austin/Travis County from terrorist threats or attacks, and which will help provide within Travis County and the City of Austin a seamless, comprehensive system of responding to all natural disasters or attacks that threaten to harm the public safety.
5. The Public Safety Task Force shall present recommendations to Council: (a) to review the adequacy of the local strategy for detecting, preparing for, preventing, protecting against, responding to, and recovering from any incident that threatens public safety, and (b) to develop and present recommendations including the fiscal impact of enhancing the ability of the City of Austin to detect and deter harmful acts and coordinate local response.

6. The Public Safety Task Force through its advisory efforts shall coordinate with national, state, and local entities to research similar issues of homeland security.
7. When the City Manager's hiring process for high level management positions at Public Safety Departments includes a process for public input, the Public Safety Taskforce will participate as a stakeholder in that process.
8. The Public Safety Task Force shall make regular reports to the Austin City Council on its policy recommendations.
9. The Public Safety Task Force shall meet at times and locations determined by the chair.
10. The City Manager shall provide administrative support for the Task Force.
11. The Public Safety Task Force shall adhere to guidelines and procedures prescribed by the Austin City Council. All members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation. Necessary expenses may be reimbursed when such expenses are incurred in direct performance of official duties of the Task Force.

12. This resolution takes effect immediately, and is effective for 3 years. At that point, the Austin City Council will review the continued need for this task force.
13. The Austin City Council hereby waives the requirements for all task force members regarding annual financial disclosure statements required of permanent committee members.