



MEMORANDUM

Austin Police Department *Office of the Chief*

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Art Acevedo, Chief of Police
DATE: October 16, 2014
SUBJECT: CIUR 1254

Art Acevedo
10/16/2014

In response to direction from Council, the Austin Police Department has been meeting with stakeholders to consider plans for a community sobriety center. These efforts have been instrumental in furthering the discussion about serving individuals with chronic substance abuse issues as well as those who simply overindulge during a night out on the town. The Austin-Travis County Sobriety Center Working Group will seek an extension so this important conversation can continue.

In conjunction with the work completed by the Group, City staff are examining how current proposals and processes could be applied to facilitate better services for public intoxicants. The Austin Police Department remains dedicated to utilizing the least intrusive methods possible to ensure the safety of these individuals including by releasing intoxicated individuals to responsible parties such as family or friends when appropriate rather than taking them into law enforcement custody.

The Austin Police Department has also recommended bringing local Universities to the table to address public intoxication since many of the inebriates are college aged persons. This suggestion has been warmly accepted by the Working Group.

There is no more worthwhile effort than protecting our citizens. Therefore, we are seeking an extension so the important work of coordinating an appropriate approach to addressing public intoxication and other violations involving alcohol can continue.

cc: Marc Ott, City Manager
Michael McDonald, Deputy City Manager