



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager

DATE: January 3, 2019

SUBJECT: Allocation of 2012 Bond Program Funds for Public Safety Facilities

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the use of certain 2012 Bond funds for public safety facilities.

The 2012 Bond Program, under Proposition 16, included the authorization of funds for public safety facility improvements. A portion of these funds were planned to renovate the Nash Hernandez Building at 1621 Nash Hernandez Senior Road for a shared Austin Police Department (APD) and Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) facility to house the APD Parks Police Unit and the PARD Park Rangers.

Upon receiving feedback from community members and Parks and Recreation Board Members, and in consideration of the Holly Shores Master Plan design options, it has been determined that the Nash Hernandez Building is not an appropriate shared space/joint use option. Alternatively, APD has determined that an appropriate use of the available bond dollars would be to allocate them to the Police Mounted Patrol Facility project, another public safety facility. APD anticipates transferring \$1.2 million for the project. PARD intends to continue community engagement and explore partnership opportunities to help fund Nash Hernandez Building improvements and shared use opportunities.

The bond funds in question have been fully appropriated and approved by Council in prior year budgets; therefore, no additional budget action is required by Council. Council will take further action in 2019 on future items related to the Mounted Patrol Facility project.

The remainder of this memo provides more information regarding the history of the Nash Hernandez facility renovation project and the decision to direct 2012 Bond funds to the Mounted Patrol Facility. Points of contact should you have any questions are: Assistant City Manager Rey Arellano, Police Chief Brian Manley or Parks and Recreation Interim Director Kimberly McNeeley.

Background

The Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) and the Austin Police Department (APD) have been working cooperatively to plan and execute shared space arrangements between the two Departments to complement the communications and work of the APD Parks Police Unit and the PARD Park Rangers. Over the past year, the Departments have collaborated to refurbish

previously shared space at 401 Deep Eddy Avenue (next to Deep Eddy Pool) and explore renovation options for the Nash Hernandez Building at 1621 Nash Hernandez Senior Road.

The Deep Eddy location has been used as a joint-use facility by the two departments since 2010. The Deep Eddy space was allocated to APD Park Unit Police in an effort to:

- Facilitate efficient and convenient trail and park access;
- Forge effective interdepartmental communications and collaboration;
- Take advantage of operational efficiencies by having a facility located within the central corridor; and
- Enhance police presence in the Lady Bird Lake and Zilker Park area to ensure the safest environment possible.

It was anticipated that the Deep Eddy space arrangement would continue until a more suitable location that better responds to the above listed criteria can be identified, planned and/or constructed.

In 2011, the two Departments entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to explore additional opportunities to share space, specifically along or near the Hike and Bike Trail around Lady Bird Lake. The Nash Hernandez Building was identified as an opportunity. Over the course of several years, as funding became available, building abatement was completed to remove material contaminated with asbestos and lead, health and safety infrastructure repairs were completed. Design work was completed and community engagement was conducted to determine opportunities to use the building as shared administrative space and community space as indicated in the Holly Shores Master Plan.

After receiving feedback from community members and Parks and Recreation Board Members, and in consideration of the Holly Shores Master Plan design options and fiscal responsibility, it has been determined the Nash Hernandez Building is not an appropriate shared space/joint use option. Financially, available bond funding that could have been used to complete design and seed construction at the Nash Hernandez Building is better allocated to complete the Police Mounted Unit construction project.

PARD intends to continue community engagement and explore partnership opportunities to help fund future Nash Hernandez Building improvements and shared use opportunities. Both Departments intend to consider future joint use opportunities as they present themselves.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Elaine Hart, Deputy City Manager
Sara Hensley, Interim Assistant City Manager
Brian Manley, Chief of Police
Kimberly McNeeley, Interim Director, Parks and Recreation Department
Greg Canally, Deputy Chief Financial Officer