

Resolution 20180614-073 – Cite-Eligible Custody Arrests
Quarterly Report #5: January 1st – March 31st, 2020
Report Date: April 30th, 2020

Overview

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Council resolution adopted on June 14, 2018 related to the Austin Police Department (APD) policies regarding the issuance of misdemeanor citations in lieu of arrest. The Council resolution requires APD to provide quarterly public reports to the City Council containing data on the use of arrests in lieu of citations for non-violent offenses when citation would be permitted by state law.

Resolution Requirements

The City Council directs the City Manager to send a quarterly public memorandum to the City Council, for the purposes of transparency, to provide data concerning the use of discretionary arrest in lieu of citation for nonviolent misdemeanor offenses when a ticket or citation would be allowed by state law. The memos should be released at the end of each quarter for at least the next 24 months.

The report or memorandum should document anonymized records of every instance that an Austin police officer arrests a resident for a nonviolent misdemeanor charge when the suspect has no outstanding warrants, was not intoxicated, and legally could have been given a citation, but the officer determines giving a ticket or citation is infeasible. The memorandum should include the following data for each instance:

- (1) a documented reason for the stop or the arrest;*
- (2) the reason for the discretionary use of arrest;*
- (3) the race and ethnicity of the person arrested; and*
- (4) the general location, such as the zip code of the incident.*

The report or memorandum should not include information that would jeopardize any ongoing criminal investigation or prosecution, and the report should include the number of unduplicated officers making such discretionary arrests.

This arrest data is provided as a separate spreadsheet. Additional analysis and context information is provided in this document.

Analysis of responsive data: January 1st – March 31st, 2020 (2020 Q1)

The attached spreadsheet includes data during the first quarter of 2020 of **82** custody arrests, made by **74** unique officers. Summaries of this same data and some additional context data are provided in the following section.

Compared to Previous Reporting Periods

During this reporting period, there were **82** custody arrests made up of **18** class A/B arrests and **64** class C arrests:

Arrests	2019	2019	2019	2019	2020
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
eligible Class A/B	64	34	21	23	18
Class C	42	50	41	57	64
Total	106	84	62	80	82

Percentages by Race

This table includes the race/ethnicity of the arrested individuals during this reporting period:

	Eligible A/B Arrests		Class C Arrests		Eligible A/B + Class C Arrests	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
White	11	61%	25	39%	36	44%
Hispanic	4	22%	13	20%	17	21%
Black	3	17%	23	36%	26	32%
Other	0	0%	3	5%	3	3%
Total	18	100%	64	100%	82	100%

Percentages by Outcome

The below table provides data for citations and cite-and-releases issued during this reporting period. Overall, for an eligible A/B offense, a custody arrest was made 6% of the time and a cite-and-release was issued 94% of the time. For an eligible class C offense, a custody arrest was made 0.59% of the time, and a citation was issued 99.41% of the time.

	Eligible A/B						Class C					
	A/B Arrest		A/B Cite-and-release		A/B Total		C Arrest		C Citation		C Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
White	11	12%	82	88%	93	100%	25	0.58%	4,300	99.42%	4,325	100%
Hispanic	4	4%	89	96%	93	100%	13	0.32%	4,028	99.68%	4,041	100%
Black	3	3%	84	97%	87	100%	23	1.40%	1,618	98.60%	1,641	100%
Other	0	0%	5	100%	5	100%	3	0.40%	753	99.60%	756	100%
Total	18	6%	260	94%	278	100%	64	0.59%	10,699	99.41%	10,763	100%

Arrest Reason Categories

Class A/B

Categories for eligible Class A/B arrests were combined from Arrest Reason charge data as provided.

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA	3
ALL THEFT	6
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	7
DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID	2
TOTAL	18

Class C

Categories for Class C arrests were manually combined from Arrest Reason data as provided, as well as additional reading to better categorize similar situations.

PEDESTRIAN ON ROADWAY	15
VIOL CITY ORDINANCE - OTHER	10
TRAFFIC VIOL/OTHER	5
POSS OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA	4
THEFT	3
DOC EXPOSURE	3
ASSAULT BY THREAT	3
HAZARDOUS TRAFFIC CITATION	3
POSS OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA	2
POSS OF ALCOHOL - AGE 17 TO 20	1
DUI - AGE 17 TO 20	1
DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID	1
VIOL CITY ORDINANCE - CURFEW	1
ASSAULT BY THREAT	1
ASSAULT BY THREAT FAM/DATING	1
GAMBLING	1
DOC WINDOW PEEPING-RESIDENCE	1
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	1
THEFT OF SERVICE	1
NON HAZ TRAFFIC CITATION	1
FAILURE TO IDENTIFY	1
NON HAZ TRAFFIC CITATION	1
VIOL OF CAMPING ORDINANCE	1
HAZARDOUS TRAFFIC CITATION	1
LITTERING	1
Total	64

Reason for Custody Arrest Categories:

Reason Documented for Custody Arrest	#
There is a reasonable likelihood that the safety of persons or property would be imminently endangered by the release of the subject arrested	28
Other circumstance approved by supervisor	18
Stop existing criminal conduct	
supervisor approval documented	14
no supervisor approval documented *	3
No justification given per policy, and no supervisor approval documented *	1
The subject could not provide satisfactory evidence of personal identification	7
Subject arrested demands to be taken before a magistrate or has refused to sign the citation	4
Prevent persons from endangering themselves or others	5
The offense is DOC 10 (exposure) and the exposure appears to have been committed with sexual motivation	0
Subject could not provide satisfactory evidence of county of residence	2
Remove the imminent threat of violence or criminal conduct	
supervisor approval documented	0
Total	82

* These cases required additional follow-up to determine whether or not the arresting officer complied with APD policy and to ensure the appropriate corrective actions were taken, if applicable. Accordingly, four officers received counseling and additional training from their respective chains of command.