



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Public Safety Commission

Recommendation Number: 20160801-005 Recommendation to Council Regarding Public Safety Budget Issues and Policies

WHEREAS this Commission's charge is to consider matters of policy and budget related to City Public Safety Departments, and

WHEREAS public safety expenditures for Police, Fire, EMS, and Municipal Court represent a significant majority (69%) of City expenditures outside of the electric/water utilities and airport,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Austin Public Safety Commission supports the following policy statement regarding the Public Safety Budget:

Public Safety expenditures should continue to make up a significant majority of City Spending outside of the enterprise agencies (electric/water utilities and airport).

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Austin Public Safety Commission recommends the following actions to Austin City Council regarding the Public Safety Budget:

1. Consider the findings and recommendations included in the upcoming Matrix Consulting Group community policing report in light of budget considerations and seek input from community residents as well as the Public Safety Commission.
2. Consider funding the means to reduce the backlogs in evidence processing and investigations including property crime investigations.
3. Prioritize Austin Police Department rape kit current cases and backlogs in light of its DNA lab closure last month and allocate sufficient resources to prioritize current sexual assault cases and reduce the backlog.
4. Ensure that personnel growth at the public safety agencies—at a minimum—matches growth in the City of Austin and surrounding areas and the changing nature of the City.

Date of approval: August 1, 2016

Record of the vote: Unanimous

Attest: Janet Jackson

Janet Jackson, Public Safety Commission Staff Liaison