

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION  
TO THE AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL  
REGARDING SALES OF CITY-OWNED WEAPONS**

**Date:** May 7, 2018 PSC Meeting (**DRAFT RESOLUTION DATE: April 25, 2018**)

**Subject:** Recommendation regarding sales or trade-ins of Austin Police Department used firearms

**WHEREAS** the Public Safety Commission supports policies that help ensure the safety, health, and welfare of Austin residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS** gun violence claims more than 30,000 lives annually<sup>1</sup>, and firearms-related fatalities are a primary cause of death for police officers killed in the line of duty<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** firearm-related injuries are estimated to be \$46 billion in hospital charges per year<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** the Austin Police Department requires high-caliber firearms and must periodically purchase new guns and render older guns obsolete;

**WHEREAS** the Austin Police Department recently traded in a large number of firearms to a licensed gun dealer for resale, and

**WHEREAS** existing laws do not prevent the possibility that firearms sold to a licensed gun dealer could be purchased by an individual who would fail background check standards or resale or transfer the weapon to an individual who has criminal intentions; and

**WHEREAS** there is no process for tracking whether guns sold by the Austin Police Department are subsequently used in a violent crime; and

**WHEREAS** alternatives exist for deactivating firearms and reusing the metal or pieces of obsoleted law enforcement firearms;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Public Safety Commission recommends to the Austin City Council that a policy be developed that prevents any city department to enter into a contract for the sale or trade-in of any City-owned weapons or firearms to licensed gun dealers or any party other than current Austin Police Department Officers who are employed by the City at the time the firearms are rendered obsolete.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Public Safety Commission recommends that any current contract for such an agreement be terminated immediately.

**Motioned By:**

**Vote**

**For: Against: Abstain: Absent: Attest:**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bradycampaign.org/sites/default/files/GunDeathandInjuryStatSheet3YearAverageFINAL.pdf>, 12/28/2012.

<sup>2</sup> 2017 Law Enforcement Officer Fatalities Report, [www.LawMemorial.org/FatalitiesReport](http://www.LawMemorial.org/FatalitiesReport)

<sup>3</sup> "The Price of Gun Violence," Health Affairs, November 2, 2017,  
<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20171031.874550>