This memo is in response to Council Resolution 20180412-027, which directed the City Manager to provide a preliminary update on the framing and approach by May 10, 2018 to determining the best use of limited public safety dollars amongst potential public safety investments with the goal of improving public safety over the next five years. The Resolution further directs an update on the plan for the first year by August 1, 2018.

Setting the framework
On May 1, representatives from the following departments met to discuss the requirements of the Resolution:

- Austin Code Department
- Austin Fire Department
- Austin Police Department
- Austin Public Health Department
- Downtown Austin Community Court
- EMS Department
- Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Office of the Medical Director
- Office of the Police Monitor

The broad discussion included how best to respond to the Resolution within the context of the Council’s recent identification of the Top 10 Indicators of the City’s Strategic Direction 2023.

Proposed Approach

Year 1
The FY19 budget process supporting the Council’s Strategic Direction provides the approach for determining what investments should be made in the first year covered by this Resolution. The City Manager has asked departments for proposals that respond to Council’s Top 10 Indicators. Proposals that incorporate contributions from multiple departments and that can demonstrate measurable outcomes will receive favorable consideration. Particular attention will be paid to proposals that have the most significant impacts on improving public safety consistent with Resolution direction.
The Resolution represents a significant scope and effort that has the potential of changing the way we do business. Such efforts require a thoughtful evaluation. In addition to the preliminary May 1 meeting, I met with the Office of Innovation to determine what role an Innovation Team (I-Team) might play in this project.

In the upcoming months leading up to our August 1 update, staff will:

- Conduct an initial assessment to determine what improvements/efficiencies can be accomplished in the short term.
- Obtain a broad overview of social services contracts managed by City departments as well as external partners such as Travis County in order to identify those services that have a beneficial impact on public safety efforts based on outcomes.
- Identify areas well suited for I-team exploration.

The goal will be to establish a process and milestones that will result in actionable proposals for FY20 and beyond. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager  
Mark Washington, Assistant City Manager  
Sara Hensley, Interim Assistant City Manager  
Elaine Hart, Chief Financial Officer  
Interim Police Chief Brian Manley, Austin Police Department  
Fire Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr, Austin Fire Department  
EMS Chief Ernie Rodriguez, Austin-Travis County EMS  
Dr. Mark Escott, Medical Director  
Cora Wright, Austin Code Director  
Juan Ortiz, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director  
Pete Valdez, Downtown Austin Community Court Administrator  
Farah Muscadin, Interim Police Monitor  
Stephanie Hayden, Austin Public Health Director  
Kerry O’Connor, Chief Innovation Officer  
Kim Olivares, Chief Performance Officer