



Public Safety Commission Recommendation no. 20190903-003

Date: September 3, 2019

Subject: Recommendation that Council Stop Giving Special Event Fee Waivers to For-Profit Corporations

Motioned by: Rebecca Webber

Seconded by: Ed Scruggs

1. Whereas, Austin police, fire, and ems personnel work extra hours to keep attendees safe at Austin's many festivals,
2. Whereas, the cost for these extra overtime hours is typically passed on to festival promoters and organizers in the form of special event fees,
3. Whereas, most of Austin's for-profit festivals such as ACL pay their own tab for these extra public safety costs,
4. Whereas, in contrast to ACL, SXSW which is likewise a for-profit festival, annually requests that Council waive its special events fees so that taxpayers pay the bill for SXSW's extra public safety services,
5. Whereas, in the past, City Council has annually waived SXSW's public safety fees,
6. Whereas, the new property tax caps will require Council to look critically at nonmandatory expenditures, and
7. Whereas, the 2019 price tag to Austin taxpayers for SXSW's use of Austin public safety services and other services such as Resource Recovery was \$2,275,608.45, now therefore,

The Public Safety Commission recommends that City Council stop giving special event fee waivers to for-profit corporations but continue to waive special event fees on a case-by-case basis for non-profit events and festivals.

Vote

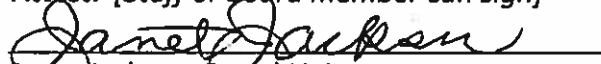
For: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 2 (Commissioners Daniela Nunez and Rebecca Bernhardt)

Attest: *[Staff or board member can sign]*


Janet Jackson, Board Liaison,
Austin Police Department