

## **Statement of Spencer Cronk – November 15, 2019**

Austin City Manager, Spencer Cronk, today announced that the City has retained Lisa Tatum to conduct an independent investigation into recent allegations of racism within the executive management of the Austin Police Department, and other allegations of misconduct recently made by the Austin Police Association.

Ms. Tatum is the founder of LM Tatum, PLLC in San Antonio. She is a former Assistant Criminal District Attorney for Bexar County, and a former outside counsel for the San Antonio Housing Authority where she did EEOC investigations. In private practice Ms. Tatum has conducted high profile and sensitive investigations. She has been an active member of the Texas State Bar Association, and was the president of the organization in 2013-2014.

The following statement may be attributed to City Manager Spencer Cronk:

“I am pleased that the City is able to retain a professional of Lisa Tatum’s stature and expertise to conduct this important investigation,” said Spencer Cronk. “She will have the City’s resources at her disposal, and the full cooperation of my office and the Austin Police Department. It is critical that we bring the facts about these allegations to light and promptly address the results as we find them. Our entire community must have trust and confidence in our Police Department, and I believe this investigation will be an important step in maintaining and strengthening that trust.”