



21           **WHEREAS**, the community of Austin is demanding massive  
22 transformation to how communities are protected, as evidenced by the thousands  
23 taking to the street and the demands presented to City Council from more than two  
24 dozen community organizations calling for change to the leadership at the top of  
25 our city's public safety system; and

26           **WHEREAS**, the measures that current Austin Police Department leadership  
27 have been willing to implement are inadequate, and resemble the same flawed  
28 police training and command expectations that have existed in the past; and

29           **WHEREAS**, Austin's 911 system, managed by the Austin Police  
30 Department, continues to send armed police to address problems that would be  
31 better met with an alternative response; and

32           **WHEREAS**, for Fiscal Year 2020 Council budgeted for the implementation  
33 of a program of alternatives for first response to mental health crisis calls, and from  
34 December 16, 2019 to June 4, 2020 of 23,333 calls for service with a mental health  
35 component, 291 were transferred to a Crisis Center Counselor, indicating the need  
36 for continued development of additional alternatives and the resources to do so;  
37 and

38           **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 global pandemic requires us to carefully  
39 reconsider how the City allocates FY2021 funds in order to address the needs of  
40 disparately impacted residents; and

41           **WHEREAS**, the greater Austin area has lost 100,000 jobs during the  
42 COVID-19 global pandemic and closures, and the Austin City Council actively  
43 supports the need to edify budget spending priorities to address this regional  
44 socioeconomic crisis; and

45           **WHEREAS**, the FY 2020-2021 budget is scheduled to be adopted in  
46 August 2020; and

47           **WHEREAS**, the budget for the Austin Police Department is the City's  
48 single largest General Fund expenditure, comprising approximately 40% of the  
49 City of Austin's General Fund budget, leaving fewer resources available for other  
50 public safety strategies that could better serve our community's needs and long-  
51 term goals; and

52           **WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of  
53 Justice Statistics, public expenditure on policing in the United States more than  
54 quadrupled between 1982 and 2006, with no clear correlation between increased  
55 spending and lower violent crime rates; and

56           **WHEREAS**, a Prison Policy Initiative 2017 report explicated that local  
57 governments nationwide spend approximately \$13.6 billion on incarceration and  
58 over-criminalization; and

59           **WHEREAS**, the budget is a reflection of the City of Austin's morals,  
60 overarching vision, and strategic direction; and

61           **WHEREAS**, starting in FY16, the Council set a goal of increasing spending  
62 on social service contracts to better align with community needs; and

63           **WHEREAS**, the City Charter grants Council final authority over budget  
64 decisions; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

65   **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

66           The elected members of City Council have no confidence that current Austin  
67 Police Department leadership intends to implement the policy and culture changes  
68 required to end the disproportionate impact of police violence on Black Americans,  
69 Latinx Americans, other nonwhite ethnic communities, and low-income residents;  
70 and

71           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

72           The Austin City Council affirms its commitment to reimagining public safety  
73 and law enforcement in our community. It is the Council's stated goal to divest the  
74 monetary allocation of resources from the Austin Police Department and invest in  
75 alternative forms of community support, emergency response, and violence  
76 prevention in regard to public safety. The City Manager is directed to bring  
77 forward a baseline budget that:

- 78           • Eliminates the sworn positions that the Austin Police Department cannot  
79           reasonably fill in FY2020-2021;

- 80 • Does not include any additional funding for militarized equipment, including  
81 but not limited to:
  - 82 • Tear gas
  - 83 • Rubber bullets
  - 84 • Bean bag rounds.
- 85 • Includes funding for a community-led, equity-focused participatory budget  
86 process for FY 2022 to decide what Austin’s public safety systems should  
87 look like in the future and how funds should be allocated;
- 88 • Funds alternative public safety and public health strategies such as, but not  
89 limited to, training and standards for trauma-informed responses, substance  
90 abuse, mental health responses, victims services counselors, developing and  
91 implementing a comprehensive and community-informed community  
92 policing standard, COVID-19 relief, social services, education, workforce  
93 development, housing stability programs, family violence prevention and  
94 family violence sheltering strategies funded through the Austin Public  
95 Health or Neighborhood Housing and Community Development  
96 Departments, and other preventative actions and alternatives;
- 97 • Explores options for reallocating positions and roles to new city units and  
98 departments not currently reflected in our existing organizational structure

99 including but not limited to an Office of Violence Prevention as other major  
100 cities have created;

- 101 • Explores options for reallocating positions and roles currently assigned to  
102 the Austin Police Department that could be managed by other departments,  
103 including but not limited to Code Enforcement, Austin Transportation  
104 Department, Austin Public Health, Austin Fire Department, and Parks and  
105 Recreation Department;
- 106 • Explores options for reallocating positions and roles currently assigned to  
107 the Austin Police Department that could be managed by other outside  
108 partner entities, including but not limited to CAPCOG, constable precincts,  
109 or non-profit organizations;
- 110 • Includes funding for a process to rewrite the Austin Police Department’s  
111 General Orders, in collaboration with Offices that may provide policy  
112 guidance that aligns with the equity and oversight policy direction from  
113 Council, such as the Office of Police Oversight, using national best practices  
114 and community input for the implementation of new use of force guidelines  
115 (e.g., bans the use of chokeholds, requires de-escalation, restricts shooting at  
116 moving vehicles, exhausts all other reasonable means before shooting either  
117 lethal or less lethal munitions, etc.);as well as guidelines in the following  
118 areas, including but not limited to, de-escalation, search and seizure, body

119 worn camera and dashboard camera, discipline matrix, comprehensive on-  
120 duty reporting requirements, language and courtesy, bias, and mental health  
121 response; that will eliminate unjustifiable and reckless police violence and  
122 disproportionalities in policing;

- 123 • Funds an independent audit of all disciplinary records held by the Austin  
124 Police Department, along with providing recommendations on external  
125 staffing needed to build data systems designed to measure and track the  
126 implementation of new force guidelines and equity outcomes , and  
127 recommendations to establish practices that use a scoring mechanism for  
128 disproportional behavior to identify at-risk officers, assign appropriate  
129 interventions, and use in the determination of promotions;
- 130 • Sets aside reserve funds, in collaboration with Offices such as the Office of  
131 Police Oversight and the Equity Office, to implement forthcoming  
132 recommendations from APD-related audits, evaluations, memos and reports,  
133 including but not limited to Council Resolutions 20190131-77 and  
134 20191205-66, cadet training curriculum from the Office of Police Oversight,  
135 and the Joint Report: Analysis of APD Racial Profiling Data;
- 136 • Increases staffing for mental health first response, such as Community  
137 Health Paramedics, to ensure the full implementation of an alternative  
138 response to 911 calls related to mental health;

- 139 • Provides funding required to implement at full scale the First Responder  
140 Mental Health Calls for Service program outlined in the 2019 Meadows  
141 Institute Report, to include funding for mental health clinicians, call center  
142 training and support, equipment and technology, project management and  
143 implementation support. Funding shall reflect at least the amount in the City  
144 Manager’s budget proposed for FY 2021 for this program in the FY 2020  
145 budget documents;
- 146 • Exempts victim services and sex crimes unit from cuts unless those FTEs are  
147 transferred to another city department or to a newly created department;
- 148 • Accepts donations for the distribution of Naloxone and provides training in  
149 its use to ensure that officers save lives when confronted with drug overdose  
150 situations;
- 151 • Includes an investment of funds into community-based programs to reduce  
152 or eliminate arrests for low-level, non-violent offenses by substituting  
153 alternatives to arrest and incarceration, including harm reduction strategies,  
154 when the underlying issues can be better addressed with services and health  
155 care;
- 156 • Includes additional funding for the Office of Police Oversight and the Equity  
157 Office that enables the departments to sufficiently perform their missions  
158 and fulfill Council directives, including funding for additional FTEs; and



- 159 • Establishes and funds an audit of the costs incurred by the City in  
160 expenditures related to suspected and/or confirmed officer misconduct,  
161 including but not limited to paid administrative leave, replacement  
162 compensation and overtime, back-pay and benefits for officers who  
163 successfully appeal indefinite suspensions, litigation and fees, and  
164 settlements and payouts.

165 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

166 The City Manager is directed to explore and propose ways to structure the  
167 FY2021 Austin Police Department budget using outcomes-based budgeting and  
168 zero-based budgeting frameworks.

169 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

170 The City Manager is directed to review all grants received by the Austin  
171 Police Department to determine if those funds and initiatives align with and  
172 advance Council’s affirmed vision for department policies and practices.

173 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

174 The City Manager is directed to report back to Council and relevant Council  
175 Committees all changes made to the Austin Police Department General Orders.  
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177 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk

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