

Comprehensive Evaluation of Sexual Assault Investigations Update

Council Resolution 20190131-077

Public Safety Commission

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Overview

- Background
- Scope of Work
- Vendor Selection
- Status Update

Background

- Council Resolution 20190131-077
 - comprehensive evaluation of how reported sexual assaults are investigated and processed
- Vendor Requirements
 - comprehensive evaluation of how reported sexual assaults are investigated and processed
 - nationally recognized, non-governmental entity
 - investigation and prosecution of adult sexual assault
 - comprehensive and multidisciplinary evaluation
 - previous successful experience evaluating similarly sized organizations
 - commitment to engage with the public

Scope of Work - Components of Evaluation

- At a minimum either **200 sexual assault cases or fifty percent** of sexual assault cases from each year, whichever number is greater, for each of the prior seven years of sexual assault case reports
- Cases examined should be **diverse** as to:
 - Cross section of investigators investigating cases
 - Type of victim
- Include cases that did and did not **move forward to prosecution.**
- The vendor **may add to above criteria.**

Scope of Work - Components of Evaluation

- Conduct interviews
- Research adherence to state and federal law
- Review APD police and practices
- Determine adherence to national best practices
- Review of treatment given to victims in cases involving drug and alcohol
- Evaluate appropriateness of current staffing, resources, and training
- Assess accuracy of case clearance decisions
- Issues regarding current policies

Scope of Work - Components of Written Report

- Shared publicly and not be redacted except for redactions to maintain anonymity and privacy of individuals otherwise identified in the report.
- Public Safety Commission and the Commission for Women
- Findings of the information reviewed and corresponding data sets
- Recommendations

Vendor Selection

- Request for Information (RFI) February 20 – 27, 2019
- Request for Qualifications (RFQS) April – May 2019
- Complete Evaluation Mid-June 2019
- City Council approval September 19, 2019
 - Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) (Contractor)
 - Woman's Law Project and the Wellesley Center for Women (Subcontractors)

Timeline

Project Duration – 2.5 years, ending in February 2022

Major Milestones

- 1) Kick-Off Meetings – Complete
- 2) Policy/Procedure Review – ongoing process, scheduled to end November 2020
- 3) Case Review – initially scheduled to end May 2021 / In Progress
- 4) Interviews/Site Visit – initially scheduled to end May 2021 / TBD
- 5) Final Report – February 2022
- 6) Presentation on Findings – February 2022

Kick-Off Meetings – November 6-8, 2019

- City Manager's Office
- Council Member Alison Alter
- APD Leadership
- APD Victim Services Unit and Sex Crimes Unit
- Public Safety Commission and Commission for Women
- SAFE Alliance

Status Update

Preliminary Planning

- Completion of Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Certification Process
 - Fingerprinting
 - CJIS Online Training

Document Review

- Reviewed policies and procedures for the APD Sex Crimes Unit and Victim Services Unit
- Reviewed relevant trainings on the response to sex crimes

Updates – Council and Boards & Commissions

- Presented updates to Commission for Women, Austin/Travis County SARRT, and the Public Safety Commission

Status Update

Review of APD Sex Crimes Cases

- Worked with APD crime analysts to identify all cases that fell within the scope of the review
- Development of case review metrics
- Randomly selected 50% of cases from each year (2012-2018)
 - Total of 1,929 cases
- Austin City Legal review of selected cases
- Interrater Reliability Tests
- Finalization of case review metrics
- Case review

Questions