

ORDINANCE NO. 20210422-020

AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT; AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET (ORDINANCE NO. 20200812-001) TO TRANSFER OUT FUNDING AND POSITIONS FOR THE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT; DECREASING THE TRANSFER FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE APD DECOUPLE FUND BY THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING FOR THE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT; TRANSFERRING IN TO THE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT THE SAME POSITIONS AND FUNDING FROM THE APD DECOUPLE FUND; AND MAKING OTHER TRANSFERS OF FUNDING AND POSITIONS TO MOVE NON-LAW ENFORCEMENT FUNCTIONS, SUCH AS PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS, HUMAN RESOURCES, BUILDING SERVICES, FINANCIAL SERVICES, AND ALARM PERMITTING, TO OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. The Council creates the Emergency Communications Department, which shall be under the control and direction of the City Manager as provided in Article V, Section 3 of the Austin City Charter. The Emergency Communication Department shall be engaged in the administration of criminal justice in support of state, federal, and local laws and shall aid law enforcement in the detection, suppression, and prosecution of crime; shall be organized and administered to enable its personnel to meet and maintain licensing requirements as telecommunicators under Texas Occupations Code Chapter 1701, and applicable rules of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, as required for its operations; and shall be organized and administered to meet the requirements of a first responder organization under Texas Government Code Chapter 421. The responsibilities of the Emergency Communications Department shall include:

- Reception of all 9-1-1 emergency calls for the City and disposition of such calls to either the appropriate City public safety operation or other disposition as determined by the nature of the call including options related to alternative response to mental health crisis emergency calls;

- Dispatch and monitoring of all field service calls to officers of the Austin Police Department (APD), including updating of APD records concerning such service calls and critical incident notification to management as appropriate;
- Liaison activities between APD and other law enforcement agencies including the Texas Crime Information Center, National Crime Information Center, Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System, and National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System;
- Reception and disposition of non-emergency (3-1-1) calls for assistance to the City that do not require immediate dispatch of APD officers, including reporting on such calls in APD record systems or other City record systems as determined by the nature of the call; and
- Providing specialized training and technical support to personnel within the Emergency Communications Department as needed to maintain required licenses, maintain clearance to access criminal justice databases, and support technological systems necessary for the operations of the Department.

The Emergency Communications Department shall allocate substantially all of its annual budget to the criminal justice, and public safety purposes identified in this ordinance, and shall establish such policies, management control agreements, and procedures as necessary to carry out its purposes and activities stated above.

PART 2. Council amends the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 APD Operating Budget (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to transfer out 222.0 full-time equivalent positions and decrease funding in the APD Decouple Fund in the amount of \$16,085,640, which consists of the positions and funding to establish the Emergency Communications Department as set forth in PART 1 of this ordinance.

PART 3. Council amends the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 APD Operating Budget (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to transfer out 62.5 full-time equivalent positions and decrease the APD Decouple Fund in the amount of \$17,081,555 and the APD Reimagine Safety Fund in the amount of \$228,077 which is the transfer of positions and funding for the APD Alarm Administration Unit to the Development Services Department, APD Human Resources to the City's general Human Resources

Department, APD Facility Maintenance to the City's Building Services Department, APD Public Information Office to the City's Communications and Public Information Office, and APD Finance to the City's Financial Services Department.

PART 4. Council transfers funding from the APD Reimagine Safety Fund and the APD Decouple Fund in the amount of \$16,757,842 to the APD to transfer funding to the Support Services Fund for the decoupled units as set forth in PART 3 of this ordinance.

PART 5. Council amends the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Support Services Fund Budget (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to increase funding in the amount of \$2,357,848 to the Human Resources Department, \$548,540 to the Communications and Public Information Office, \$1,880,723 to the Building Services Department, \$16,447,189 to the Financial Services Department.

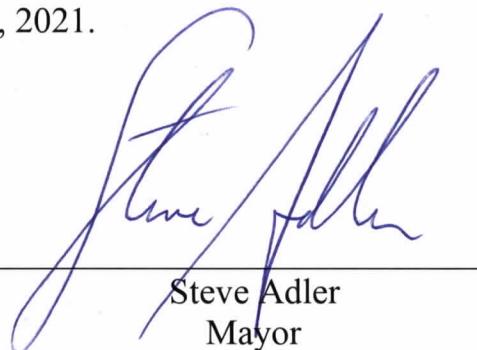
PART 6. Council amends the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Development Services Fund (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to transfer in 6.0 full-time equivalent positions and to increase funding from the General Fund in the amount of \$551,790 to the Development Services Department.


PART 7. This ordinance takes effect on May 3, 2021.

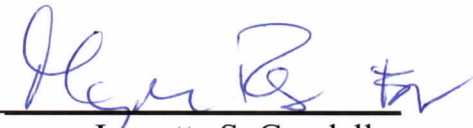
PASSED AND APPROVED

_____, April 22, 2021

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Steve Adler
Mayor

APPROVED: 
Anne L. Morgan *bym*
City Attorney

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk