

# DOWNTOWN AUSTIN COMMUNITY COURT

January 25, 2022

Michael A. Coffey, Judge  
Peter Valdez, Director



# DOWNTOWN AUSTIN COMMUNITY COURT (DACC)

- Established in 1999
  - 7th Community Court in United States
  - 1st Community Court in Texas
- Operational Areas
  - Court Services
  - Community Services
  - Homeless Services

← Support Services
- Court and Homeless Services available from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday



# DACC MISSION

- DACC's mission is to:
  - **administer justice equitably and compassionately** to foster trust and accountability,
  - and
  - to utilize a client-centered and housing-focused intensive case management model to **help individuals experiencing homelessness achieve long-term stability.**



# DACC OPERATIONAL AREAS

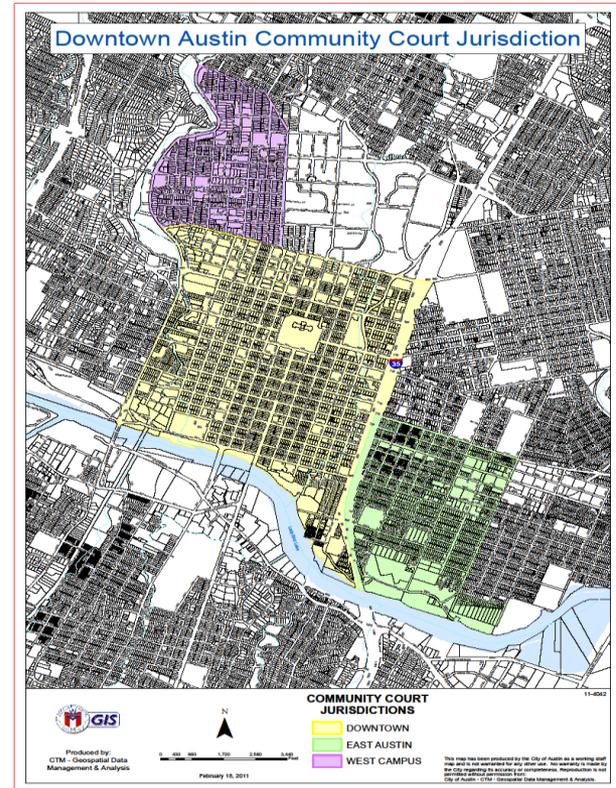
- DACC has 38 fulltime employees in 4 operational areas:
  - Court Services
    - 1 Judge, 1 Supervisor, and 3 Court Clerks
  - Homeless Services
    - 20 Masters-Level Clinical Case Managers (including management/supervisors)
  - Community Services
    - 1 Supervisor and 6 Crew Leaders
  - Support Services
    - 1 Director, 1 Operational Manager, 1 Business System Analyst, 1 Business Process Consultant, and 2 Business Process Specialists
- Non-court staff onsite includes 7 fulltime personnel:
  - 2 APD Officers, 4 Security Guards, and 1 Prosecutor



# COURT SERVICES

## DACC Jurisdiction:

- Class C misdemeanor criminal offenses (fine only)
  - Downtown, East Austin, and West Campus areas
  - No traffic or Code offenses
- Citywide - Proposition B & State camping ban offenses
  - Connects individuals to services



# COURT SERVICES

- Constitutional court – all due process rights
- Problem solving court – quality of life offenses
- Restorative justice court



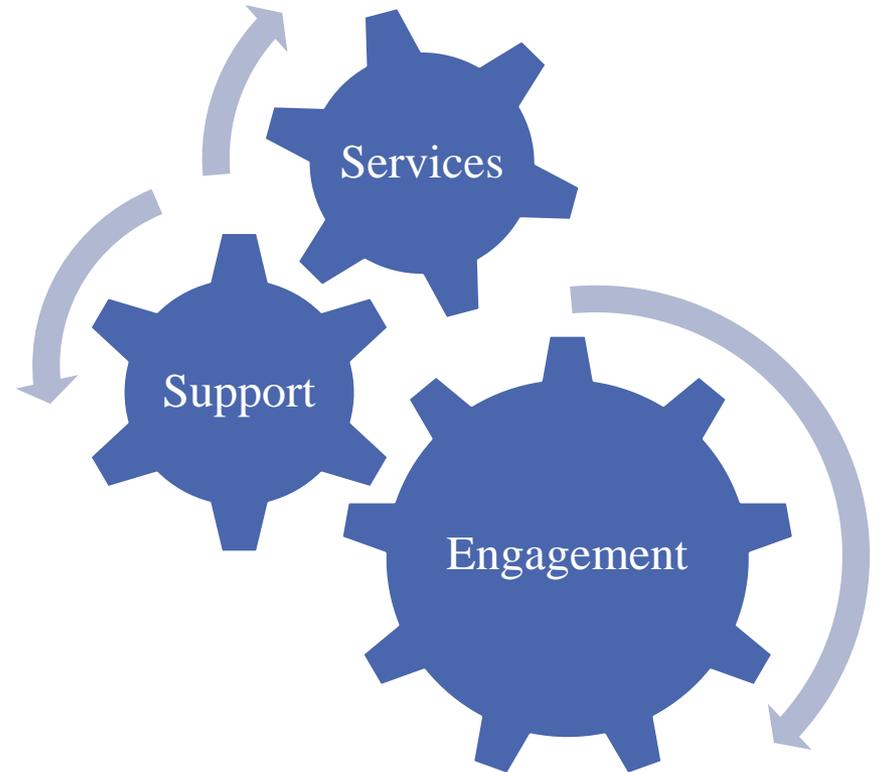
# COURT SERVICES

- Typical court appearance at DACC
  - Judge – advises about rights
  - Prosecutor – options/deal to resolve case
  - Defendant – agrees to plea bargain
  - Judge – adjudicates & sentences
  - Case Manager – services available



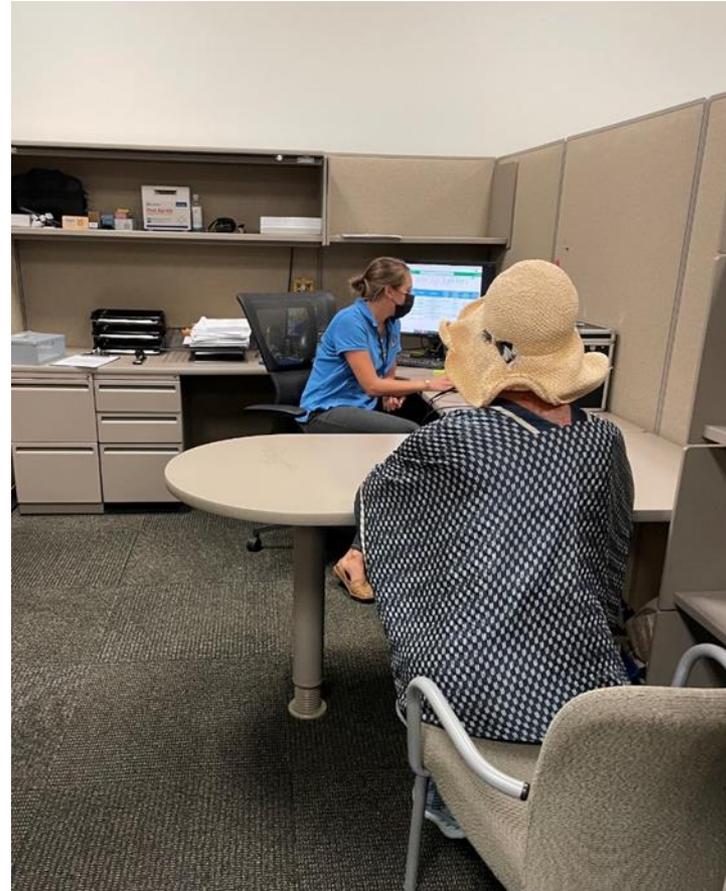
# HOMELESS SERVICES

- Licensed Master Clinicians
- Low case loads of no more than 16 individuals per case manager
- Multiple entry points for engagement in services
- Approach:
  - Voluntary
  - Critical Time Intervention
  - Person Centered
  - Trauma Informed Care
  - Intensive wrap around supports



# HOMELESS SERVICES

- Intensive Case Management has assisted 343 individuals obtain housing since October 2015
- Current waitlist of 273 individuals for ICM services as of January 13, 2021
- Current average of 33 individuals seen daily for walk-in case management and walk-in court services



# COMMUNITY SERVICES

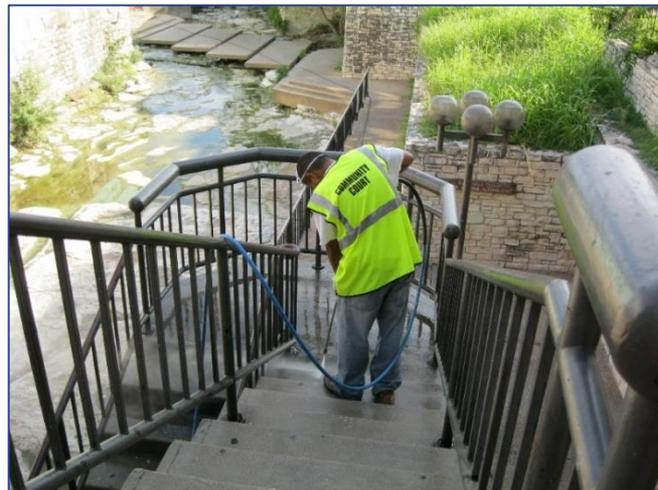
Participants fulfill community service hour requirements\*

- Public space cleaning
- Graffiti abatement
- Beautification projects

\*Program available to public participants when COVID is at Stage 3 or below



## ■ Edgar Fincher III Program Garden



# DACC LOCATIONS TO DATE

- Previous Municipal Court Building; 700 E 7th St
  - 1999 through 2001
- 719 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street
  - 2001 through August 2021
- Terrazas Branch Library; 1105 E. Cesar Chavez St.
  - August 2020 through August 2021
  - Interim solution to provide space for safe services during the pandemic
- One Texas Center
  - Current interim location; operations opened August 2021



# DACC ONSITE SECURITY

- All necessary and available security measures will be in place during operating hours
- Security resources will include:
  - Inside and outside cameras and both active and passive alarm systems.
  - Austin Police Department provides law enforcement and armed security within the court building and elsewhere if needed.
  - Contract security provides unarmed security throughout the building, parking garage, and grounds.
  - Weapons are prohibited in court buildings. All persons and bags are screened through a metal detector and x-ray machine, similar to current operations the Austin Municipal Court.



# QUESTIONS?

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS AND  
REQUESTS FOR TOURS MAY BE  
DIRECTED TO:

[ROBERT.KINGHAM@AUSTINTEXAS.GOV](mailto:ROBERT.KINGHAM@AUSTINTEXAS.GOV)

