



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Michael Gates, Interim Officer, Office of Real Estate Services  
Pete Valdez, Court Administrator, Downtown Austin Community Court

**COPY:** Spencer Cronk, City Manager  
CMO Executive Team

**DATE:** June 14, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Update on the Relocation of Downtown Austin Community Court

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This memorandum serves to provide an update regarding the efforts to address the location needs of the Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC).

Currently, DACC operates virtual judicial services and provides case management services out of the Terrazas Branch Library, while administrative staff members work at leased space located at 719 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street. DACC will soon be required to vacate both locations. The Terrazas Branch Library is preparing to reopen and resume library services to the public soon after June 25, 2021 and, with DACC on a month-to-month lease at the 719 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street space, the property owner requested that DACC vacate the premises no later than September 2021.

DACC Management anticipates an increase within the next 30-60 days in service demands resulting from the phased enforcement of the public camping ban. After reviewing the limited options available, the Office of Real Estate Services (ORES), in partnership with DACC and the Building Services Department, have concluded that One Texas Center (OTC) best addresses DACC's immediate space needs. OTC, which is located at 505 Barton Springs Road, is City-owned, is closely located to Downtown, and is easily accessible by transit routes. The first floor of OTC can accommodate all of DACC's operations with minimal renovations.

The OTC location is an interim measure for approximately 18-24 months while a permanent location is identified for DACC operations. Staff is exploring the renovation of the Municipal Court Building located at 700 E. 7th Street as a long-term solution. If this solution proves to be feasible, it will take some time to make the needed renovations.

Consistent with discussions during the Council Work Session on June 1, 2021, ORES and DACC staff will work with the Communications and Public Information Office to provide outreach to residents surrounding OTC. The outreach would include information about DACC operations, including services provided and plans for security.

The Austin Police Department (APD) has confirmed that camping in any of the areas surrounding OTC is not allowed under the new City ordinance. The phased approach that APD has adopted in encampment relocation in other areas of Austin pertains only to chronic, established sites that were in existence prior to the new City ordinance going into effect on May 11, 2021. Any new camping that appears after that date, now and going forward, would be subject to immediate notification of violation, and the necessary action to ensure removal including enforcement action, if necessary.

If you have any questions about this item, please contact us at [Michael.Gates@austintexas.gov](mailto:Michael.Gates@austintexas.gov) or [Pete.Valdez@austintexas.gov](mailto:Pete.Valdez@austintexas.gov).