

Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee

Resolution: Cessation of Trials at Downtown Community Court

To: The Honorable Mayor Lee Leffingwell, Mayor Pro Tem Martinez and City Council
To: City Manager Marc Ott and Assistant City Manager Michael McDonald

WHEREAS...The Downtown Austin Community Court (The Court) was not originally charged with holding trials and in fact did not do so when the Court was established, and

WHEREAS...The Court was established as an “Arraignment and Referral” docket court, and

WHEREAS...It was determined upon the founding of the Court that any defendant entering a “not guilty” plea would be tried in Municipal Court, and

WHEREAS...The Court was established to manage 5,500 cases annually but is in fact currently managing greater than 11,500 cases annually, and

WHEREAS...The Court expends nearly 300 hours monthly just to perform the duties of holding trials, and

WHEREAS...It has been determined that the holding of trials at The Court is a drain on valuable resources costing the Court \$63,900 in annual salaries alone; equating to 21% of The Courts budgeted salary for these employees, and

WHEREAS...It has been determined that holding trials at The Court is a drain on The Courts time thus hindering them from completing their mission of providing “therapeutic justice”.

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE DOWNTOWN AUSTIN COMMUNITY COURT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Recommends that all trials cease at The Court and that any person wishing to enter a plea of “not guilty” be referred for trial at Municipal Court so that The Court may continue to meet it’s mission: “The purpose of the Downtown Austin Community Court is to collaboratively address the quality of life issues of all residents in the downtown Austin community through the swift, creative sentencing of public order offenders.”