

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	12220	Agenda Number	14.
---------------------	---------	-------	---------------	-----

Meeting Date:	2/9/2012	Department:	Austin Police Department
---------------	----------	-------------	--------------------------

Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Austin, Hays County, the Hays County District Attorney's Office, and the City of San Marcos in the amount of \$24,388.25 per quarter, for reimbursement funding of a seventh fulltime forensic chemist position that performs drug analysis at the Austin Police Department Forensic Science Division Laboratory, for an initial term ending September 30, 2012, with up to four annual renewal periods.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding for the seventh forensic chemist will be provided by Hays County, the Hays County District Attorney's Office, and the City of San Marcos on a reimbursement basis.

Fiscal Note

A new FTE is required. A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	David Carter, Chief of Staff / 974-5030
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

This Interlocal Agreement for a Forensic Chemist position at the Austin Police Department Forensic Science Division Laboratory whose priority will be performing analysis on drug evidence of priority cases submitted by the Austin Police Department, Hays County, Hays County District Attorney's Office and the City of San Marcos Police Department.

The Austin Police Department Forensic Science Division Laboratory currently performs drug analysis for priority cases (Rocket Docket) submitted by the Austin Police Department. These priority cases involve defendants in pre-trial confinement who have been charged with drug-related offenses.

Because jailed defendants charged with drug crimes are often unwilling to dispose of their cases until laboratory analysis on the drug evidence has been completed, the delay in completing laboratory analysis of drug evidence may result in an increase in the amount of time that jailed drug defendants spend in jail prior to case disposition. The

addition of a seventh forensic chemist to perform laboratory analysis on drug evidence would enable the City to analyze drug cases for the above listed entities, thereby completing these drug analyses more quickly than currently being conducted.