

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, the Mayor has received letters from Travis County District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg, County Attorney David Escamilla, and 13 members of the Travis County District and County Criminal Courts in support of Austin Police Department's request for additional chemists for the Forensic Laboratory; and

WHEREAS, all letters express concern over a backlog of 787 misdemeanor cases awaiting blood testing at the County Attorney's Office and 320 felony cases awaiting drug testing at the District Attorney's Office; and

WHEREAS, these letters state that this backlog is resulting in defendants spending more time in jail awaiting lab results, delays in criminal case dispositions, and numerous court resets; and

WHEREAS, the County Attorney expresses concern that this backlog could result in the loss of certain grant eligibility; **NOW THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to report back to Council in the near future with an action plan to remedy this backlog up to and possibly including hiring additional forensic staff as required.

ADOPTED: _____, 2013 **ATTEST:** _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

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