



**City Council Questions and Answers for  
Thursday, May 23, 2013**

These questions and answers are related to the  
Austin City Council meeting that will convene at 10:00 AM on  
Thursday, May 23, 2013 at Austin City Hall  
301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX



**Mayor Lee Leffingwell  
Mayor Pro Tem Sheryl Cole  
Council Member Chris Riley, Place 1  
Council Member Mike Martinez, Place 2  
Council Member Kathie Tovo, Place 3  
Council Member Laura Morrison, Place 4  
Council Member William Spelman, Place 5**

*The City Council Questions and Answers Report was derived from a need to provide City Council Members an opportunity to solicit clarifying information from City Departments as it relates to requests for council action. After a City Council Regular Meeting agenda has been published, Council Members will have the opportunity to ask questions of departments via the City Manager's Agenda Office. This process continues until the final report is distributed at noon to City Council the Wednesday before the council meeting.*

## **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

1. Agenda Items # 5 and # 6
  - a. QUESTION: What are the development plans and environmental mitigation strategies being implemented by the developer for these tracts of land?  
COUNCIL MEMBER MORRISON
  - b. ANSWER: Pending
2. Agenda Item # 18
  - a. QUESTION: Please explain the process for this pilot and what metrics will be obtained to ascertain the success of the pilot and the potential value of making it a permanent part of the weatherization program. COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO
  - b. ANSWER: The low income weatherization rehabilitation assistance program (LWRAP) is designed to fund the weatherization of homes determined to be beyond the scope of normal weatherization; LWRAP is a portion of the HEAP Tier 2 efforts. Due to the need of extensive rehabilitation for repairs for the home, AE has allocated \$100K to assist in this pilot. At the end of the pilot program, AE will assess the number of homes served in the pilot. AE will consider the leverage funds provided by members of the Housing Repair Coalition (HRC) to determine the success of the program. Success will also be measured by an increase number of homes served by AE and the HRC, that would not have been normally provided weatherization services. Funding levels for future program years will be considered based on funding availability from all parties involved in the pilot.
  - c. QUESTION: How did Austin Energy determine the number (6) of providers to be selected? COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN
  - d. ANSWER: The number of providers selected for this contract was not determined prior to the evaluation of the submittals. A goal was established that would allow selection of contractors who submitted a proposal that met the requirements listed in the evaluation criteria. Setting the number of contractors in advance would have potentially limited staff's ability to select firms.
3. Agenda Item # 21 thru # 23

- a. QUESTION: a) What is the timetable for a new permanent interlocal? b) Where is the new station going to be located? c) What will the impacts be on EMS services within the City? COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN
  - b. ANSWER: a) The current interlocal agreement expires on October 1, 2013, and the goal is to place this item on the City Council and Commissioners Court agendas in September for consideration. The new financial model has already been created for the new interlocal. It includes a new provision that requires Travis County to pay a per-hour fee for City ambulances responding to County incidents. We are currently writing the body of the interlocal document at this time. b) If approved by Travis County Commissioners Court, the new EMS unit will be located in the existing ESD 4 Fire Station on FM 969 at 14312 Hunters Bend, starting June 1, 2013. c) In FY 12, the FM 969 service area had 1,169 incidents and all but 100 were handled by City of Austin funded units. The addition of 12-hour a day 7-day a week ambulance in the area will significantly decrease the need for City of Austin funded units to respond into the area.
4. Agenda Item # 56:
- a. QUESTION: Please tell us more about how the \$2,360,000 will be spent. Which playscapes will be replaced? COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN
  - b. ANSWER: See attachment
5. Agenda Item # 57
- a. QUESTION: : Please share info on the results of the crime reduction efforts through HALO. How does APD determine where to place these cameras? COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN
  - b. ANSWER: See attachment
6. Agenda Items # 59 and # 60.
- a. QUESTION: a) What will change from the public's point of view? b) What services will we be providing for the fees that will be imposed?
  - b. ANSWER: a) With oversight and regulation, the customer will have means of recourse and feedback, including a formal complaint process already in place. By regulating charter services providing point-to-point service in the City of Austin, companies will be held accountable to COA public safety and consumer protection standards. b) Permit fees are limited to the cost of operating the program. The permit fee for charter vehicles include administrative costs, enforcement (including field inspections and investigations), permitting materials, and other costs incidental to maintenance of the program.

7. Agenda Item # 75

- a. QUESTION: Have there been some preliminary discussions to indicate Camp Mabry's interest in this? COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN
- b. ANSWER: Yes. City PARD personnel met with senior Camp Mabry personnel who are interested in partnering with the City to provide event coordination services under a partnership. Camp Mabry staff are interested in offering venue room usage to city staff (for staff meetings and retreats), as well as hosting small scale non-music event rentals (e.g. small walk/runs) by the community.

8. Agenda Item # 105

- a. QUESTION: a) What is the current time frame for processing an STR license application? b) If an application is determined to not meet requirements for licensing, how is the applicant notified? c) Is the application request closed and removed from database or does it remain with some notation as closed or rejected? d) What is time frame for notice of denial? COUNCIL MEMBER MORRISON

- b. ANSWER: Pending

9. Agenda Item # 108

- a. QUESTION: What is the cost to retrofit a house to make it visitable? COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN
- b. ANSWER: Current structures will not be required to retrofit. The proposal only applies to new residences in newly developed subdivisions submitted for review after January 1, 2016, and will not be required on lots that are not practicable due to topography.

10. Agenda Item # 110

- a. QUESTIONS: a) Do any other cities in the US require laminated windows, and which ones? b) Also how much more expensive are laminated windows up front? c) Could more extensive requirements be applied to any bedrooms or rooms where people sleep, and if so, what could those requirements be? COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN

- b. ANSWER: Pending

11. Agenda Items # 110 and # 111

- a. QUESTION: a) The staff report lists the Building & Fire Code Board of Appeals (Technical Board) as having reviewed this proposal but did not take action at their February meeting due to a lack of quorum - was it considered or

action taken at a subsequent meeting? b) A briefing on October 9th, 2012 occurred before the planning commission - were there any recommendations from the commission at this or subsequent meetings? c) The staff report references position statements by the Austin Hotel Lodging Association and the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association but no letters were included for those groups - if available can they be provided? d) At what point during the process was the "Final Proposal - Enhance exterior structural components" developed? MAYOR PRO TEM COLE

b. ANSWER: Pending

**END OF REPORT - ATTACHMENTS TO FOLLOW**

 *The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request.*

 *For assistance please call 974-2210 OR 974-2445 TDD.*



## Council Question and Answer

**Related To**

Agenda Item #56

**Meeting Date**

May 23, 2013

### Additional Answer Information

The playscape contract for council consideration is a service agreement contract to provide an additional option for PARD to implement playscape repairs and replacements. The contract is designed to allow for a full replacement or to purchase parts required for in-house repairs.

Attached is a list of playscapes that were identified during the last Safety Audit conducted by PARD as a priority 1 or priority 2 safety concerns, with estimated costs. This audit identified playscape repairs/ replacements suitable for this service contract estimated to be 1,860,000 ( see highlighted). This playscape safety audit is complete each year due to the ever changing condition of our playscapes and to assist in insuring the safety of those who use them. The remaining funding in the contract is intended to be able to address future issues as they arise during the life of the contract.

Please see list below.

## Playground Priority Levels 1 & 2 - Sequenced Work Plan

Updated: 10/19/2012

Playscape	District	Priority Level	Cost Estimate	Method	Funding Source	Recommendation
Sanchez Playground	Central	1	\$ 50,000.00	Fac Con	2006 Bond	Demo and removal due to the fact that AISD has adjoining playscape that serves the community and the school. Might seek to add alternative play feature.
Trailhead Neighborhood Park	Northwest	1	\$ 150,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2006 Bond PLD	Complete playscape replacement to be vetted through stakeholder group incorporating nature-based play elements as appropriate.
Latta Branch Greenbelt Playground	South	1	\$ 100,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2006 Bond	Equipment delivery and install is pending approval by stakeholder group and PARB. Purchase of this equipment occurred before new approval process.
Battle Bend Neighborhood Park	South	1	\$ 200,000.00	RFQ / IFB	2006 Bond PLD	Complete playscape replacement to be vetted through stakeholder group incorporating nature-based play elements as appropriate.
Barrington Playground	Northeast	1	\$ 50,000.00	Fac Con	2006 Bond	Demo and removal due to the fact that AISD has adjoining playscape that serves the community and the school. Might seek to add alternative play feature.
Little Stacy Neighborhood Park	South	1	\$ 300,000.00	RFQ / IFB	2006 Bond 2012 Bond	Complete playscape replacement to be vetted through stakeholder group incorporating nature-based play elements as appropriate.
Barton Hills Playground	Central	1	\$ 75,000.00	Fac Con Fac Services	2006 Bond PLD	Removal of structure causing priority 1 status and replacement with comparable piece in a new location. This plan results in cost savings and reduction to level 3.
Dove Springs District Park	South	2	\$ 200,000.00	RFQ / IFB	2006 Bond 2012 Bond	Complete playscape replacement to be vetted through stakeholder group incorporating nature-based play elements as appropriate.
Town Lake Metropolitan Park - Holiday Inn Playground	Central	2	\$ 50,000.00	Fac Con	2006 Bond	Demo and removal due to the fact that Milago/ MACC playscape will be installed during FY 2013 and is planned to be a replacement facility.
Zilker Metropolitan Park	Central	2	\$ 250,000.00	RFQ / IFB	2012 Bond	Complete playscape replacement to be vetted through stakeholder group incorporating nature-based play elements as appropriate (play for all abilities).
Onion Creek Metropolitan Park	South	2	\$ 75,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2006 Bond PLD	Demo and removal due to being in flood plane buyout and pending master plan. Potential for replacement with new equipment based on availability of PLD funding.
Norman Playground	Northeast	2	\$ 50,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2012 Bond	Demo and removal due to the fact that AISD has adjoining playscape that serves the community and the school. Might seek to add alternative play feature.
Cherry Creek Neighborhood Park	South	2	\$ 25,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2012 Bond PLD	Demo and removal due to aging equipment and nearby playscape at Silk Oak. Potential for replacement with new equipment based on availability of PLD funding.
Silk Oak Neighborhood Park	South	2	\$ 25,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2012 Bond PLD	Demo and removal of old 2-12 structure due to new structure within the park. Potential for replacement with new equipment based on availability of PLD funding.
Cook Playground	Northwest	2	\$ 75,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2012 Bond PLD	Complete playscape replacement through coordination with AISD. Financial partnership would be sought with AISD for more substantial improvements.
Oakview Playground	Northwest	2	\$ 120,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2012 Bond PLD	Complete playscape replacement through coordination with AISD. Financial partnership would be sought with AISD for more substantial improvements.
Stoney Ridge Neighborhood Park	South	2	\$ 75,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2012 Bond PLD	Construct a concrete curb and top-up fill material. May look to provide additional play opportunities based on availability of PLD funding.
Tarrytown Neighborhood Park	Northwest	2	\$ 90,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2012 Bond PLD	Replacement of 5-12 play structure with removal of poured-in-place rubber surface. Will require top-up of fill material.
Martin Playground	Central	2	\$ 50,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2012 Bond PLD	Due to Holly Shores / Festival Beach Master Plan, will implement short-term repair that will move this site to a priority level 3. More substantial replacement in FY 2015.
Brownie Pocket Park	Northeast	2	\$ 30,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2012 Bond PLD	Minor changeout of equipment causing safety issues and patching of rubber safety surface to extend the useful life of playscape structure.
Gillis Neighborhood Park	South	2	\$ 125,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2012 Bond PLD Mitigation	Complete playscape replacement to be vetted through stakeholder group incorporating nature-based play elements as appropriate.
Ramsey Neighborhood Park	Northwest	2	\$ 200,000.00	RFQ / IFB	2012 Bond PLD	Complete playscape replacement to be vetted through stakeholder group incorporating nature-based play elements as appropriate.
Odom Playground	South	2	\$ 75,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2012 Bond PLD	Complete playscape replacement through coordination with AISD. Financial partnership would be sought with AISD for more substantial improvements.
Kendra Page Neighborhood Park	South	2	\$ 125,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2012 Bond PLD	Complete playscape replacement to be vetted through stakeholder group incorporating nature-based play elements as appropriate.
Tanglewood Neighborhood Park	Northwest	2	\$ 50,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2012 Bond PLD	Complete playscape replacement to be vetted through stakeholder group incorporating nature-based play elements as appropriate.
Dottie Jordan Neighborhood Park	Northeast	2	\$ 200,000.00	RFQ / IFB	2012 Bond PLD	Complete playscape replacement to be vetted through stakeholder group incorporating nature-based play elements as appropriate.

Quail Creek Neighborhood Park	Northwest	2	\$ 60,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2012 Bond PLD	Minor changeout of equipment causing safety issues with replacement of fill material to extend the useful life of playscape structure.
Kealing Playground	Northeast	2	\$ 60,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2012 Bond PLD	Full replacement of swing structure and metal slide with replacement of fill material to extend the useful life of the playscape structure.
Lucy Reed Playground	Northwest	2	\$ 75,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2012 Bond PLD	Complete playscape replacement through coordination with AISD. Financial partnership would be sought with AISD for more substantial improvements.
Meadows at Trinity Crossing Neighborhood Park	Northeast	2	\$ 60,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2012 Bond PLD	Minor changeout of equipment causing safety issues with replacement of fill material to extend the useful life of playscape structure.
Govalle Neighborhood Park	Northeast	2	\$ 60,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2012 Bond PLD	Minor changeout of equipment causing safety issues with replacement of fill material to extend the useful life of playscape structure.
Eastwoods Neighborhood Park	Northeast	2	\$ 80,000.00	Fac Con Purchasing	2012 Bond PLD	Minor changeout of equipment causing safety issues with replacement of fill material to extend the useful life of playscape structure.
Town Lake Metropolitan Park - Butler Shores Playground	Central	2	\$ 200,000.00	RFQ / IFB	2012 Bond PLD	Complete playscape replacement to be vetted through stakeholder group incorporating nature-based play elements as appropriate.
Oswaldo A.B. Cantu Pan-American Neighborhood Park	Northeast	2	\$ 200,000.00	RFQ / IFB	2012 Bond PLD	Complete playscape replacement to be vetted through stakeholder group incorporating nature-based play elements as appropriate.

**Currently Identified for this contract \$ 1,860,000.00**

**Total \$ 3,610,000.00**



## Council Question and Answer

<b>Related To</b>	Agenda Item # 57	<b>Meeting Date</b>	May 23, 2013
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### Additional Answer Information

**Crime reduction efforts:**

In July of 2011, the HALO Camera system went live. There are six categories of statistics that are captured in relation to the HALO cameras:

HALO Officer-Initiated Arrests Total = 74  
 Incidents proactively captured on camera by officers assigned to the RTCC

HALO Camera Incidents Initiated = 571  
 Incidents observed on camera by officers assigned to the RTCC that resulted in officers being dispatched to a location.

HALO Camera Incidents Requested = 616  
 Requests made by personnel outside of the RTCC to actively monitor the HALO cameras or to search archived video.

HALO DVD's recorded as evidence = 205  
 Incidents captured by the HALO camera system that is copied to DVD for evidentiary purposes.

HALO Video Searches Total = 1187  
 Total of incidents initiated and incidents requested

HALO Video Searches with Results = 375 (32%)  
 Total number of incidents/searches with actionable information from the total number of incidents/searches completed.

**Camera placement:**

The purpose of PSCS is to aid APD in identifying, deterring, detecting, and capturing video evidence for investigating crime in the downtown business district and other areas of the city.

The initial implementation of the Public Safety Camera Systems, commonly referred to as HALO (High Activity Location Observation) cameras, took place in July of 2011 in the Rundberg neighborhood and the downtown business district in November of 2011. Rundberg was selected due to the ongoing crime challenges in that area of town. The Rundberg neighborhood comprises 2% of the city's square mileage and 5% of the city's population but is responsible for 11% of the city's overall violent crime and 7% of the city's overall property crime. Additionally, the area is responsible for 9% of Part II crimes.

The downtown business district was selected because it has a direct impact on the economic well-being of Austin and we have a vested interest to ensure the downtown area continues to be a safe place to live, work, and visit. Additionally, the DAA provided funding for a substantial portion of the HALO system installed in the Downtown

area.

The additional cameras in this request will complete the Rundberg portion and add additional coverage to the downtown business district. Future camera placements will be determined by the Public Safety Camera Advisory Board which is comprised of the Strategic Intelligence Commander, City of Austin Attorney, Designated Patrol Commanders, and a Crime Data Advisor (APD Crime Analysis).