



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20140407-03C

April 7, 2014

Subject: Public Safety Commission Fire Watch Recommendation

Recommendation

Given that severe drought conditions in Travis County and the surrounding areas, have prompted city leaders and first responders across the region to focus on the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) in hopes of preventing widespread damage and mitigating fire risk, installing an early wildfire detection system in Austin would be a further step in protecting homes and property in the WUI.

It is the recommendation of the Austin Fire Department (AFD) to partner with Travis County, who they have been in discussions with, to each make a purchase of one wildfire detection system. AFD and Travis County would coordinate with the city of Westlake for a total of three sensor systems for the region. AFD and the County will be able to locate at least three suitable tower locations, complete the tower engineering, and place these sensors without adding expensive towers for this program. Additionally, AFD will report back to the Public Safety Commission one year after implementation on the costs, effectiveness and efficiency of the system and thereafter on an as-needed basis as determined by the Commission.

The Public Safety Commission recommends the City Council adopt the recommendations contained in the Austin Fire Department's response to Council Resolution No. 20140213-047.

Vote

The Public Safety Commission Fire Watch Recommendation was approved unanimously on a 5-0 vote under Commissioner Lauderdale's motion and Vice Chair Levy's second with Commissioner Ko having recused himself.

Absent: Vice Chair Holt

Attest: