



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee

Recommendation for Budget Funding for Downtown Community Court (DACC) and, additionally,
Support of the Health and Human Services Departments reallocation to DACC

WHEREAS, Community Court has an all-time high case load, and the Court needs additional funding to not only maintain the focus on the current caseload but to also better focus on moving people out of the criminal justice system ; and

WHEREAS, The City of Austin wisely increased the Court's budget in the past two fiscal cycles adding more case management and outreach management to great success in dealing with clients cycling through the system over a period of up to eleven years; and

WHEREAS, The Court has continued to achieve success in managing a greater caseload while also removing vulnerable, expensive repeat offenders from our justice system and in to housing; and

WHEREAS, The Court's work is part of a system of care, known as the 'continuum of care', that should not be considered as an isolated agency for change and good; and

WHEREAS, The Court has taken steps in FY 2014 to reallocate funds in a manner more consistent with the Court's expanding need for services and ability to control contracts internally; and

WHEREAS, The City of Austin has asked all City departments, the DACC included, to reassess current spending and to reallocate dollars in a more efficient manner to meet current and future needs; and

WHEREAS DACC Administrator Pete Valdez updated the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee on the unmet budget needs of FY 2015; and

WHEREAS, The Health and Human services Department has suggested a reallocation of \$250,000 for continued rehabilitative services to clients of the DACC; and

WHEREAS, The Court continues to have the need for funding for a second security guard due to the nature of the Court's design and need for continued staff safety, and

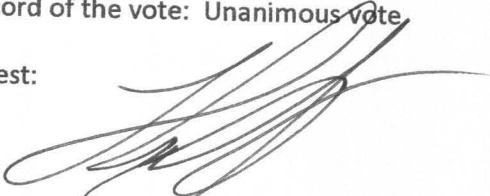
WHEREAS, The Court will have another rise in building rent, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee wholeheartedly accepts the recommendation of the reallocation of monies currently being spent to ATCIC for administrative fees, the reallocation of all rehabilitation dollars be spent directly in accordance with the City Of Austin and the request for funds to meet their rising rent and the need for an additional security guard and now encourages the Austin City Council to approve the reallocation of funds as suggested and unmet needs budget requests of the Downtown Austin Community Court and the Health and Human Services Department in a coordinated effort to help improve the quality of life for all persons downtown and to continue to care for and remove repeat offenders from our justice system and in to housing and stabilized care.

Date of Approval: June 20, 2014

Record of the vote: Unanimous vote.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Marshall Jones', written over the 'Attest:' label.

T. Marshall Jones

Chair, Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee