



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee

Recommendation Regarding the Recommendations of the Transition Taskforce Pertaining to the
Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee

WHEREAS, The City of Austin Council introduced Council Resolution no. 20131121-056 on November 21, 2013 thus creating the Transition Taskforce; and

WHEREAS, The Transition Taskforce presented their findings to City Council in a report dated May 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The Transition Taskforce findings made the recommendation that the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee, among other recommendations, be referred to as a Commission and that this Commission be merged with the Public Safety Commission; and

WHEREAS, The Downtown Austin Community Court routinely collaborates with Austin Police Department, Austin Fire Department, Austin Emergency Medical Services, Health and Human Services, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Austin Travis County Integral Care as well as several other City and County Agencies and Commissions; and

WHEREAS, The Court is involved in non-punitive retribution; and

WHEREAS, The Court is involved in rehabilitative treatment and care; and

WHEREAS The purpose of the Court is to collaboratively address the quality of life issues of all residents in the downtown Austin community through the swift, creative sentencing of public order offenders; and

WHEREAS, The perception of merging the Court with the Public Safety Commission sends the wrong message as to the purpose of the Court and by de facto "criminalizes" quality of life ordinance citations against the purpose of the Court; and

WHEREAS, The Court, by it's purpose and mission of non-punitive rehabilitative care, more closely aligns with the Health and Human Services Commission; and

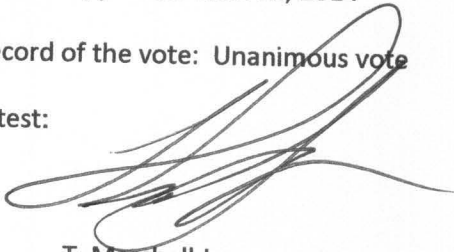
WHEREAS, The Administrator of the Court has publically expressed his desire to maintain a stand-alone Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee recommends the change from an Advisory Committee to a Commission; the Commission remain a stand alone Commission as the merger into the Public Safety Commission is not in the best interest of the Court; the Commission, if merged in to any commission, is best served under the appropriate Health and Human Services commission.

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