

1  
2  
3 **TEMPLATE FOR STANDARD CITY BOARD BYLAWS**  
4

5  
6 **BYLAWS OF THE**  
7

8 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 *(Board Name)*  
10

11 **ARTICLE 1. NAME.**  
12

13 The name of the board is \_\_\_\_\_ *(board name as it appears in the*  
14 *Municipal Code).*  
15

16 **ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE AND DUTIES.**  
17

18 The purpose of the board is \_\_\_\_\_. *(Insert the information directly from the*  
19 *City Code.)*  
20

21 **ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP.**  
22

23 (A) The board is composed of eleven members appointed by the city council.  
24

25 (B) A member serves at the pleasure of the city council.  
26

27 (C) Board members serve for a term of four years beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> on the year of appointment.  
28

29 (D) An individual board member may not act in an official capacity except through the action of the  
30 board.  
31

32 (E) A board member who is absent for three consecutive regular meetings or one-third of all regular  
33 meetings in a "rolling" twelve month timeframe automatically vacates the member's position  
34 subject to the holdover provisions in Section 2-1-27 of the City Code. This does not apply to an  
35 absence due to illness or injury of the board member, an illness or injury of a board member's  
36 immediate family member, active military service, or the birth or adoption of the board member's  
37 child for 90 days after the event. The board member must notify the staff liaison of the reason for  
38 the absence not later than the date of the next regular meeting of the board. Failure to notify the  
39 liaison before the next regular meeting of the board will result in an unexcused absence.  
40

41 (F) At each meeting, each board member shall sign an attendance sheet which indicates that the member  
42 does not have a conflict of interest with any item on that agenda, or identifies each agenda item on  
43 which the member has a conflict of interest. Failure to sign the sheet results in the member being  
44 counted as absent and his/her votes are not counted.  
45

46 (G) A member who seeks to resign from the board shall submit a written resignation to the chair of the  
47 board, the staff liaison, or the city clerk's office. If possible, the resignation should allow for a  
48 thirty day notice so the city council can appoint a replacement.

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#### ARTICLE 4. OFFICERS.

- (A) The officers of the board shall consist of a chair and a vice-chair.
- (B) Officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the board at the first regular meeting after April 1<sup>st</sup>. In the event a current officer becomes ineligible to serve as an officer, the board may hold an emergency election as needed.
- (C) The term of office shall be one year, beginning May 1st and ending April 30<sup>th</sup>. An officer may continue to serve until a successor is elected. A person may not serve as an officer in a designated position of a board for more than four consecutive one-year terms. A person who has served as an officer in a designated position of a board for four consecutive terms is not eligible for re-election to that designated office until the expiration of two years after the last date of the person's service in that office. The board may override the term limit provision for an officer by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the authorized board members.
- (D) A member may not hold more than one office at a time.

#### ARTICLE 5. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

- (A) The chair shall preside at board meetings, appoint all committees, represent the board at ceremonial functions and approve each final meeting agenda.
- (B) In the absence of the chair, the vice-chair shall perform all duties of the chair.

#### ARTICLE 6. AGENDAS.

- (A) Two or more board members may place an item on the agenda by oral or written request to the staff liaison at least five days before the meeting. After first consulting with and receiving input from the staff liaison, the chair shall approve each final meeting agenda.
- (B) The board liaison shall submit the meeting agenda through the online agenda posting system for each meeting not less than 72 hours before the meeting.
- (C) Posting of the agenda must comply with Texas Government Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act).

#### ARTICLE 7. MEETINGS.

- (A) The board meetings shall comply with Texas Government Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act).
- (B) Board meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

- 1 (C) The board may not conduct a closed meeting without the approval of the city attorney.
- 2
- 3 (D) The board shall meet (select one of the following: monthly, quarterly, or when the board is legally
- 4 required to meet in order to comply with a legal deadline.) In November of each year, the board
- 5 shall adopt a schedule of the meetings for the upcoming year, including makeup meeting dates for
- 6 the holidays and cancelled meetings.
- 7
- 8 (E) The chair may call a special meeting, and the chair shall call a special meeting if requested by three
- 9 or more members. The call shall state the purpose of the meeting. A board may not call a meeting
- 10 in addition to its regular scheduled meetings as identified in its adopted meeting schedule, more
- 11 often than once a quarter, unless the meeting is required to comply with a statutory deadline or a
- 12 deadline established by Council.
- 13
- 14 (F) Six members constitute a quorum.
- 15
- 16 (G) If a quorum for a meeting does not convene within one-half hour of the posted time for the meeting,
- 17 then the meeting may not be held.
- 18
- 19 (H) To be effective, a board action must be adopted by an affirmative vote of the number of members
- 20 necessary to provide a quorum.
- 21
- 22 (I) The chair has the same voting privilege as any other member.
- 23
- 24 (J) The board shall allow citizens to address the board on agenda items and during a period of time set
- 25 aside for citizen communications. The chair may limit a speaker to three minutes.
- 26
- 27 (K) The staff liaison shall prepare the board minutes. The minutes of each board meeting must include
- 28 the vote of each member on each item before the board and indicate whether a member is absent or
- 29 failed to vote on an item.
- 30
- 31 (L) The city clerk shall retain agendas, approved minutes, internal review reports and bylaws. The
- 32 \_\_\_\_\_ (*liaison's department name*) shall retain all other board documents. The documents are
- 33 public records under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 552 (Texas Public Information Act).
- 34
- 35 (M) The chair shall adjourn a meeting not later than 10 p.m., unless the board votes to continue the
- 36 meeting.
- 37
- 38 (N) Each person and board member attending a board meeting should observe decorum pursuant to
- 39 Section 2-1-48 of the City Code.
- 40
- 41 (O) A member of the public may not address a board at a meeting on an item posted as a briefing.
- 42

## 43 **ARTICLE 8. COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS.**

### 44 **COMMITTEES**

- 45
- 46
- 47 (A) The \_\_\_\_\_ (*Name of the board*) shall have the following committees:
- 48 (*Name and describe the duties of each Committee.*)

1  
2 *If the board does not have any committees, use the following language):*  
3

- 4 (A) The \_\_\_\_\_ (*Name of the board*) will have no committees.  
5  
6 (B) Each committee must be established by an affirmative vote of the board. A committee cannot meet  
7 until its creation is approved by the Council Audit and Finance Committee. Each committee shall  
8 consist of at least three board members appointed by the chair. A staff member shall be assigned to  
9 each committee by the director of the \_\_\_\_\_ (*department name*).  
10  
11 (C) The board chair shall appoint a board member as the committee chair, with the member's consent.  
12  
13 (D) A majority of the total number of appointed committee members constitutes a quorum.  
14  
15 (E) Each committee shall meet on a regularly scheduled basis at least quarterly.  
16  
17 (F) Each committee shall make an annual report to the board at the January board meeting.  
18  
19 (G) Committee meetings must be posted in accordance with Texas Government Code Chapter 551  
20 (Texas Open Meetings Act).  
21  
22 (H) At each committee meeting, a committee member shall sign in on a sheet provided and shall  
23 indicate that the member has no conflict of interest with any item on the committee meeting agenda,  
24 or identify each agenda item on which the member has a conflict of interest.  
25  
26

### 27 **WORKING GROUPS**

28

- 29 (A) The board can determine the size of a working group but the number of board members serving on  
30 the working group must be less than a quorum of the board.  
31  
32 (B) A working group may designate a chair, with the member's consent, but is not required to do so.  
33  
34 (C) Quorum requirements do not apply to working groups.  
35  
36 (D) Staff support will not be provided for working groups.  
37  
38 (E) Working groups are not required to post their meetings in accordance with the Texas Government  
39 Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act).  
40  
41

### 42 **ARTICLE 9. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY.**

43

44 The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the board in all  
45 cases to which they are applicable, except when inconsistent with these bylaws or with special rules of  
46 procedure which the board or city council may adopt.  
47

### 48 **ARTICLE 10. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS.**

1  
2 A bylaw amendment is not effective unless approved by the Council Audit and Finance Committee.  
3

4  
5 The bylaws were approved by the \_\_\_\_\_ (insert - board name) at their  
6 meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_ (insert - month date, year).  
7

8  
9  
10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 (Signature of Executive or Staff Liaison)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert - Title -- Executive or Staff Liaison)

Meeting Location	Address	Main Phone NO.	Weekday of Operation	Hours of Operation
<u>Austin History Center</u>	810 Guadalupe St	512-974-7480	Tuesday- Saturday Sunday	10Am-6Pm 12pm-6pm
<u>Carver Branch</u>	1161 Angelina St., Austin, TX 78702	512-974-1010	Sunday Monday-Thursday Friday Saturday	Closed 10am-9pm 1pm-6pm 10am-5pm
<u>Cepeda Branch</u>	651 N Pleasant Valley Rd	512-974-7372	Sunday  Monday - Thursday Friday	Closed  10:00 am-9:00PM 1:00 pm- 6:00pm  10:00 am - 9:00 pm
<u>Hampton Branch</u>	5125 Convict Hill Rd	512-974-9900	Monday - Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday	 1:00 pm- 6:00pm 10:00am-5:00pm Closed
<u>Howson Branch</u>	2500 Exposition Blvd	512-974-8800	Sunday Monday - Thursday: Friday Saturday:	Closed 10:00am- 9:00pm 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
<u>Little Walnut Creek Branch</u>	835 W Rundberg Ln	512-974-9860	Sunday Monday - Thursday: Friday: Saturday:	2:00 pm - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 9:00 pm 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
<u>Manchaca Road Branch</u>	5500 Manchaca Rd	512-974-8700	Sunday Monday - Thursday: Friday Saturday	2:00 pm - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 9:00 pm 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

<u>Milwood Branch</u>	<u>12500 Amherst Dr</u>	512-974-9880	Sunday Monday - Thursday: Friday Saturday	Closed 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
<u>North Village Branch</u>	2505 Steck Ave.	512-974-9960	Sunday Monday - Thursday Friday Saturday	Closed 10:00 am - 9:00 pm 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
<u>Old Quarry Branch</u>	7051 Village Center Dr	512-974-8860	Sunday Monday - Thursday Friday Saturday	Closed 10:00 am - 9:00 pm 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
<u>Pleasant Hill Branch</u>	211 E. William Cannon	512-974-3940	Sunday Monday - Thursday: Friday Saturday	Closed 10:00 am - 9:00 pm 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
<u>Ruiz Branch</u>	1600 Grove Blvd	512-974-7500	Sunday Monday - Thursday Friday Saturday	2:00 pm - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 9:00 pm 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
<u>Southeast Austin Community</u>	5803 Nuckols Crossing Rd	512-974-8840	Sunday Monday - Thursday Friday Saturday	Closed 10:00 am - 9:00 pm 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

<u>Spicewood Springs Branch</u>	8637 Spicewood Springs Rd	512-974-3800	Sunday Monday - Thursday Friday Saturday	Closed 10:00 am - 9:00 pm 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
<u>Terrazas Branch</u>	1105 E Cesar Chavez St	512-974-3625	Sunday Monday - Thursday Friday Saturday	Closed 10:00 am - 9:00 pm 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
<u>Twin Oaks Branch</u>	1800 S 5th St	512-974-9980	Sunday Monday - Thursday Friday Saturday	Closed 10:00 am - 9:00 pm 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
<u>University Hills Branch</u>	4721 Loyola Ln	512-974-9940	Sunday Monday - Thursday Friday Saturday	Closed 10:00 am - 9:00 pm 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
<u>Willie Mae Kirk Branch</u>	3101 Oak Springs Dr	512-974-9920	Sunday Monday - Thursday Friday Saturday	Closed 10:00 am - 9:00 pm 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
<u>Windsor Park Branch</u>	5833 Westminster Dr	512-974-9920	Sunday Monday - Thursday Friday Saturday	Closed 10:00 am - 9:00 pm 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm 10:00 am - 5:00 pm



Yarborough Branch

2200 Hancock Dr

512-974-8820

Sunday

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Monday - Thursday:

10:00 am - 9:00 pm

Friday

1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Saturday

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center**  
**600 River Street, Austin, TX 78701**  
**512.974.3772**

**Rental Information & Date Request**

The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center is dedicated to the preservation, creation, presentation, and promotion of Mexican American cultural arts and heritage. The center's facilities are made available for rental to events that serve the cultural, educational, artistic, or civic purpose of the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center.

For rental consideration please complete and return the attached request form to [MACC@austintexas.gov](mailto:MACC@austintexas.gov) . Once your request is received ESB-MACC staff will review to determine date availability and if the center can accommodate such an event.

CONTACT INFORMATION	
Name:	Organization Name: <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit
Mailing Address:	Work Phone:
City:	Evening / Cell Phone:
State:      Zip:	E-Mail:

**PRODUCTION TYPE:** \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |                                   |                                      |  |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Theater  | <input type="checkbox"/> Dance    | <input type="checkbox"/> Film        | <input type="checkbox"/> Concert         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture / Public Forum                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Literary | <input type="checkbox"/> Art         | <input type="checkbox"/> Community event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private (Wedding, birthday, anniversary, etc.) |                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |  |

Please provide your organization's mission as well as the event purpose and scope in the space provided below.

\_\_\_\_\_

Why have you chosen the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center as the place to host your event?

\_\_\_\_\_

What will your production / event add to the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center?

\_\_\_\_\_

**ANTICIPATED ATTENDANCE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Audience Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Free or Admission Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Will a reception be held during your event? (Y / N) \_\_\_\_\_

Will alcohol be served? (Y / N) \_\_\_\_\_ Will alcohol be sold? (Y / N) \_\_\_\_\_

**DATES & TIMES:**

1<sup>st</sup> Preferred Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Preferred Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

## **Downtown Austin Community Court**

### **DACC**

#### **Dependable-Accessible-Customer Centered-Collaborative**

- **Mission**

- The purpose of the Downtown Austin Community 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.

- **Client Engagement**

- Arraignment
- Field Release
- Walk In Docket
- Walk In (Non-Docket)
- Outreach

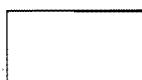
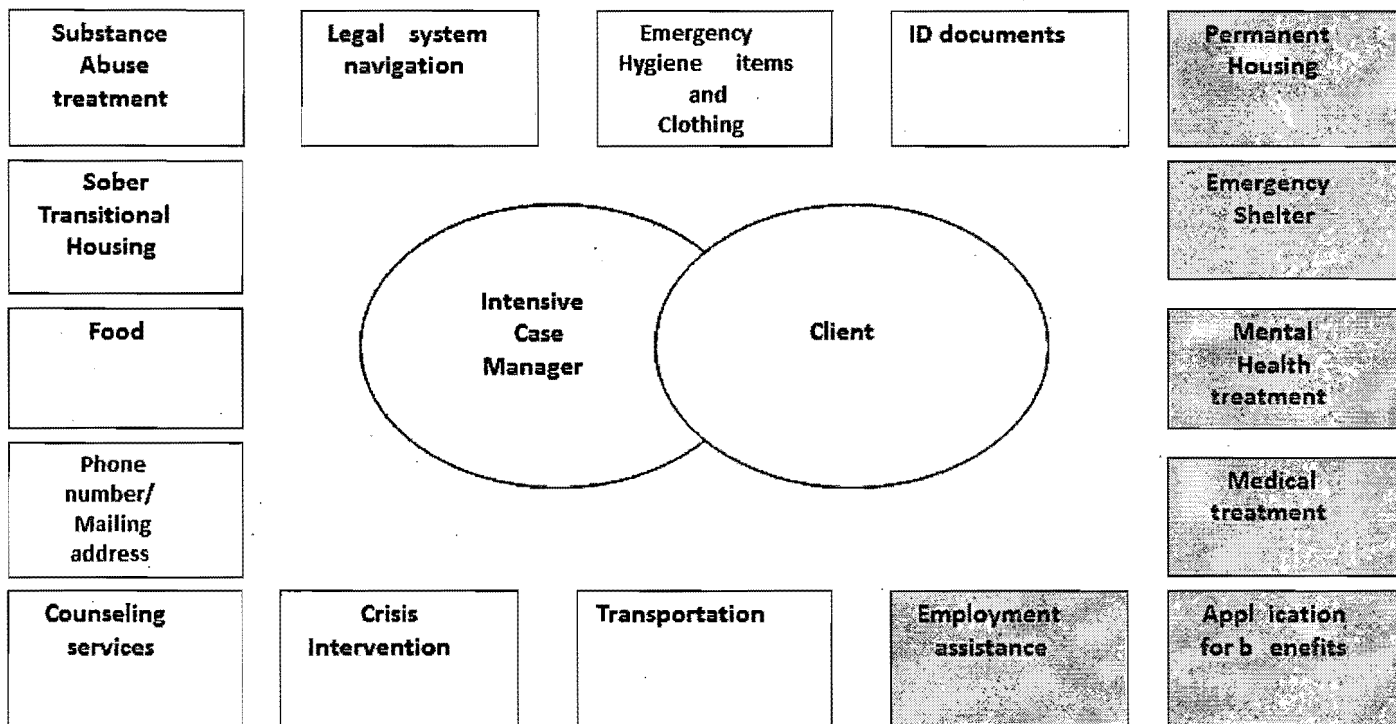
- **Intensive Case Management**

- Intensive Case Management is a unique service provided to eligible clients of the Downtown Austin Community Court.
- Those individuals who have had 25 or more cases with the court and at least one active case in the last 24 months are known as Frequent Offenders make up our priority population and are eligible for services.
  - Individuals not meeting this criteria are open for services, but evaluated on a case by case basis.
- To maintain an intensive level of case management contact, case managers are encouraged to maintain a limit of 15 active clients at a time.

- **Case Management Services**

- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Community Service Restitution
- Life Skills Classes
- Peer Support
- Transitional Housing
- Mat Reservation
- 24 hour on-call Case Management

- Counseling
- WRAP Training (Wellness Recovery Action Planning)
- Intensive Case Management for Frequent Offenders
- Basic Need Supplies and Incentives
- Emergency Solutions Grant Rapid Rehousing (ESG RRH)
  - The Emergency Solutions Grant Rapid Rehousing Program is funded by HUD and provides housing location and stabilization services to help homeless individuals move as quickly as possible into permanent housing while assisting individuals housed with maintaining housing.
- ESG Rapid Rehousing Program
  - Collaboration with DACC, Front Steps and CDU
  - Potential to accept individuals with zero income
    - No income requirement at Program Entry
  - Low barrier program design
  - Individual must be literally homeless or fleeing domestic as defined by HUD
  - 30% Area Median Family Income at annual recertification
    - \$16,150 annually (individual)
    - \$1,345.83 per month
  - Financial Assistance
  - Housing Location Services
  - Housing stability case management
- ESG Rapid Rehousing DACC Update
  - 67 individuals housed
  - 25 clients currently enrolled:
    - 14 in housing stability case management
    - 11 in housing location services



Service funded (at least partially) by DACC



Service not funded by DACC - TCMs help clients access these community resources

Sitting or Lying Down on a Public Sidewalk or Sleeping Outdoors

Summary of FY 2011 through FY 2015

Status	Count
Appeared - Defendant appeared but the case has not been assigned any additional action	12
Attorney Appeared - Attorney representing defendant	4
Case Closed-Defendant Deceased- Case was closed when court was informed that the defendant had died	20
CC Dismissed - Section 12.45 - Defendant appeared - Penalty for this case was taken into account in another case and this case was dismissed	2
CC Dismissed - Completed Deferral - Defendant signed up for and completed all requirements of a deferral	194
CC Dismissed - Confidential Per HIPPA - Defendant appeared - Case dismissed due to medical or mental health condition	13
CC Dismissed - Defendant showed proof of completing court ordered requirements	9
CC Dismissed - Identity Issue - Defendant appeared and showed proof that someone had misused their identity when citation was issued	4
CC Dismissed - Insuff Evidence - Defendant appeared and case was dismissed due to insufficient evidence	215
CC Dismissed - Interest of Justice - Defendant appeared and prosecutor recommended dismissal	344
CC Dismissed - No Police Officer - police officer did not appear at trial setting	5
CC Dismissed - Plea Bargain - Defendant pled on another case and this case was dismissed as part of a plea agreement	3345
CC Dismissed - Prosecutor Discretion - Defendant appeared and prosecutor recommended dismissal	108
CC Dismissed/Refiled - Prosecutor refiled case (Typically to correct an error in the original filing)	10
CC Guilty - Defendant appeared and entered Guilty Plea	7
Deferral Completed - CSR in lieu of fee - Defendant completed Community Service Restitution in lieu of fee	20
Deferred Disposition - Defendant appeared and agreed to a Deferred Disposition	1
Dismissed - Defendant appeared and prosecutor recommended dismissal	61
Fine Deferred - Defendant appeared, entered a plea of Guilty and has been given time to pay the fine	34
Fine Paid (Closure Disposition) - Defendant appeared, paid fine and case was closed	30
Fine Paid by CSR (Closure disposition) - Defendant appeared, entered a plea of Guilty and paid fine by completing Community Service Restitution hours	138
Guilty - Defendant appeared and found Guilty at trial	6
Has warrant - Active warrant due to Failure to Appear or Failure to Comply with court orders	9505
No RTA - Court did not receive the Release to Appear paperwork from Travis County Jail therefore defendant not held accountable for not appearing at Community Court	61
Not Guilty Transferred to Muni Court - Non Homeless Defendant appeared and entered a plea of Not Guilty. Case was transferred to Municipal Court for trial setting	48
On Future Docket - Defendant is scheduled to appear on a date in the future	51
Pending - Case has been filed but it has not been placed on a docket as of this date	24
Remanded for Layout - Defendant remanded to jail to in order to pay fine/costs	32
TLO (Closure Disposition) - Given Jail Credit - Defendant Appeared and requested jail credit. Case closed as fine paid.	702
Warrant Pending - The case is in the process of receiving a warrant due to Failure to Appear or Failure to Comply	322
<b>Total:</b>	<b>15327</b>
Homeless	9348
Non Homeless	1404
Unknown Homeless Status	4575
<b>Total:</b>	<b>15327</b>



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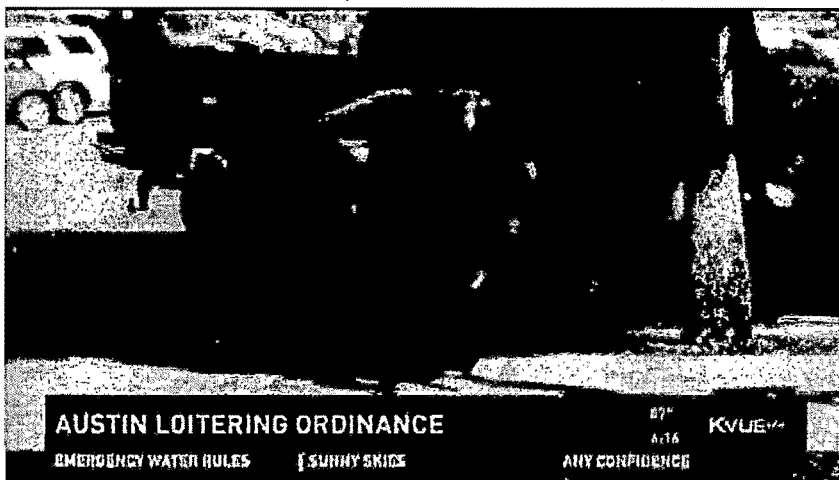
## Hundreds of 'No-Sit No-Lie' citations going unpaid

Brandon Jones, KVUE 7:25 a.m. CDT October 7, 2015

AUSTIN – More than four years after a city ordinance banning lying or sitting on a downtown Austin sidewalk went into effect, most of the fines are going unpaid.

Under the ordinance, which went into effect May 2011, officers must give 30-minute warnings to those sitting or lying on a sidewalk before issuing a ticket. Most of the people being issued tickets are homeless and cannot pay.

According to court records from the Downtown Community Court, which regulates the fines, more than half of people issued tickets in 2015 have outstanding warrants. Only 21 of the more than 12,000 cases since the ordinance went into effect have appeared before a judge in community court. Court records also showed that only 39 people paid their fines outright.



City attempts to get 'No sit/No lie' tickets paid

Richard Troxell, an advocate for the homeless, pressed city leaders for the 30-minute rule for the no-sit no-lie ordinance. He feels police are targeting the homeless.

"I see the city has used its last opportunity and we get those tickets. We're not going to play around with this," Troxell said.

A standard ticket costs \$160 plus community service. If a person doesn't appear in court to pay the fine, a warrant is issued for their arrest and the ticket goes up to \$200.

Tickets are given at an officer's discretion and all officers have to follow the law's 30-minute grace period. Police and city officials are discussing ways to get the money owed, but no definite plan is in place.

APD said some people can pay fines through community service and jail credit. KVUE reached out to Austin police, but the department would not comment.

Read or Share this story: <http://kvue.tv/1LgTZaJ>

# THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

<http://www.austinchronicle.com/news/2015-11-06/a-closer-look-at-no-sit-no-lie/>

## A Closer Look at No Sit/No Lie

BY MAKEDA EASTER, NOVEMBER 6, 2015, NEWS

In 2009, House the Homeless, an education and advocacy nonprofit, surveyed 500 people experiencing homelessness in Austin. After analyzing the surveys, Richard Troxell, the founder of House the Homeless, discovered that nearly half had serious health conditions, including congestive heart failure, cancer, traumatic brain injuries, and mental illness, that prevented them from working. These illnesses also required long periods of rest. And it was those periods of rest that often led to fines under the city's No Sit/No Lie ordinance, which applies to certain public spaces.

However, there were no exceptions for the disabled under No Sit/No Lie, which directly violated the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In 2010, Troxell and Council Member Mike Martinez proposed certain exceptions to the ordinance – such as increasing the number of benches in public spaces, and allowing doctor's notes or cards displaying health conditions to provide an exemption from fines. While those ideas were rejected, House the Homeless worked to create changes that brought the ordinance into compliance under ADA and provided exemptions for those in line for goods and services during periods of extreme temperatures.

No Sit/No Lie has a history that dates back 20 years, when business owners, city officials, and the public strove to crack down on homelessness. But the ordinance has dire consequences for a population that struggles to obtain even the most basic resources. In 1995, the city passed an anti-camping ordinance, which targeted the homeless who congregated in "problem areas" including Downtown. While the ordinance was much reviled, it was also mostly unenforceable because of how vaguely "camping" was defined. It also didn't address the true problem, which was that the homeless in Austin had nowhere to sleep.

The ARCH, built in 2004, was one supposed solution, but overcrowding at the shelter left many with nowhere to go. One year later, the city passed No Sit/No Lie, an attempt at limiting the anti-camping ordinance, but also a way of addressing chronic and aggressive panhandling Downtown. West Campus and East Austin are also currently within the geographical limits of the ordinance. The ordinance gives police authority to issue fines of \$160 and community service to people who are sitting or lying in public spaces. Officers must first give a 30-minute warning to those found in violation, and if the person is found in the same location after that time period, the officer can then choose to issue a citation. If fines are not



increases to \$210.

While anyone can be fined for violating No Sit/No Lie, the homeless are disproportionately affected, receiving two-thirds of the tickets issued. Defenders of the ordinance insist that the primary intention is to incentivize the homeless to find housing and receive services. Typically, a ticket sends a person to Municipal Court, where they are directed to service providers. For others, No Sit/No Lie and other ordinances like it embody the criminalization of homelessness in Austin.

Last Tuesday, the Texas Fair Defense Project, the Civil Rights Clinic at the UT School of Law, and the law firm of Susman Godfrey LLP filed a suit against the city of Austin for unconstitutionally jailing citizens. "With something like No Sit/No Lie, which really directly impacts homeless people, the enforcement mechanism is a Class C ticket. That's going to feed them into this process which leads a lot of people to jail," says Rebecca Bernhardt, executive director of the Texas Fair Defense Project. She hopes the lawsuit will force Austin to address how such ordinances impact the city's most impoverished. "We're focused on an injunctive release, which means we want to change the city's practices and policies when it comes to enforcing these laws. There is well-established Supreme Court case law that says you can't treat poor people differently. You can't put someone in jail solely because they don't have the ability to pay a fine or fee."

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