

Austin Firefighters Association Proposed Resolution

WHEREAS, the Austin Fire Department uses a standard of 8 minute response times 90% of the time, which is consistent with national standards set by the Commission of Fire Accreditation International and the National Fire Protection Association; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2015, only seven out of forty six fire stations met the established response time goal of 8 minutes or less 90% of the time; and

WHEREAS, according to the City of Austin Demographer, Austin's population grew over 38% over the last fifteen years; and

WHEREAS, as Austin's population continues to grow, the need for services will also increase; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Fire Department and The Austin Firefighters Association collaborated to update the 1994 Fire Station Justification Model, now called the of Fire Station Risk and Service Delivery Analysis Model (Service Delivery Analysis), which provides data driven information to allow policymakers to proactively make informed decisions about the need for future fire station location and timing; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Service Delivery Analysis determined there was an immediate need for fire stations in five areas with "significant development, increased population, and response times which are substantially below AFD's goal of 8 mins (call receipt to onscene, 90%)," which include Travis Country, the Loop 360 area, Goodnight Ranch, the Moore's Crossing area, and Canyon Creek; and

WHEREAS, when facing a similar situation in 1986, Council passed Resolution 19860522-019 to develop a plan to build new fire stations to address high areas of need; and

WHEREAS, multiple funding mechanisms could be used to move forward with building new fire stations in areas of immediate need including third-party financing through a credit-tenant lease model, inclusion in the 2018 bond package, and Capital improvement Program funding; and

WHEREAS, in a presentation to Council on March 1, 2016 titled "Strategic Facility Planning," City staff estimated that utilizing third-party financing through a credit-tenant lease model has the potential to preserve the City's ability to have MBE/WBE goals and wage standards in place while still producing significant cost savings when compared to the traditional bond funded model, and achieve three to four year savings in timeline; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin installed an Emergency Vehicle Preemption System, IR Opticom in the mid-1990s that is used by the Austin Fire Department (AFD) and Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to allow public safety vehicles to change traffic signals to enable faster emergency times; and

WHEREAS, traditional Opticom Emergency Vehicle Preemption is still used widely in other cities, but line of sight requirements due to the type of light technology used results in several limitations of this system; and

WHEREAS, new technology has resulted in the development of a GPS Emergency Vehicle Preemption system, which is currently used in Palm Beach County, and could be compatible with the Next Generation GPS ET system currently serving over 90% of the signalized intersections in Austin and the computer aided dispatch automatic vehicle location trackers in AFD and EMS vehicles; and

WHEREAS, utilizing GPS technology for controlling lights for public safety vehicles could lead to faster response times, and determining potential costs and benefits would help determine whether the City of Austin should consider upgrading the current system; and

WHEREAS, Council is committed to providing reliable and equitable public safety services for Austin residents, and see value in the development of a strategic plan to improve response times through building fire stations and high areas of need and potentially updating the system used to control traffic signals for emergency response vehicles; **NOW, THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to develop a comprehensive plan for consideration during the FY 2016-17 budget process with proposed funding mechanisms and timelines for building fire stations in five areas of immediate need identified by the Austin Fire Association and the Austin Fire Department which include Travis Country, the Loop 360 area, Goodnight Ranch, the Moore's Crossing area, and Canyon Creek.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

The City Manager's proposal shall include multiple funding options for consideration including utilizing third-party financing through a credit-tenant lease model, inclusion of new fire stations in the 2018 bond package, utilizing Capital improvement Program funding, or some combination of those or other options.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

The City Manager shall provide a progress report as part of each annual budget process that includes the annually updated version of Austin Fire Department/Austin Fire Association Fire Station Risk and Service Delivery Analysis Report and a proposed plan for implementing the construction of the of the top five most critical fire stations as define by Service Delivery Analysis Report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

The City Manager shall explore the feasibility of utilizing a GPS emergency vehicle preemption system, and provide a recommendation to Council within ninety days that includes information regarding best practices in other cities, potential cost and funding options, and anticipated impact on response times.