



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee

Recommendation Number: (20160520-003): Recommendation for Budget Funding for the Downtown Austin Community Court

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC) 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. The Court seeks to hold people responsible while also offering help to change behavior; and

WHEREAS, a large percentage of the cases scheduled by the DACC Case Managers involve defendants who are experiencing homelessness. In the 2014-2015 fiscal year, 13,270 cases were filed in the DACC. 9,456 of these cases involved 1,634 defendants experiencing homelessness, over 70% of the cases filed; and

WHEREAS, in the last "point-in-time" count, the Ending Community Homelessness Organization ("ECHO") determined that the number of individuals experiencing homelessness increased by 20% from the previous year; and

WHEREAS, the DACC is an integral part of the continuum of care provided by an array of local non-profits, and substance abuse and mental health providers. The DACC specializes in the criminal justice aspects of addressing the needs of and barriers facing these most vulnerable Austin citizens; and

WHEREAS, the DACC was able to connect approximately 3,500 homeless DACC defendants to case managers who attempted to connect these defendants to these lifesaving and life changing services during the 2014-2015 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, during the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the DACC's funding for Substance Abuse Managed Service Organization ("SAMSO") and Direct Social Services Contracts was depleted approximately half-way through the fiscal year, such that the DACC case managers were unable to connect many of their clients to these greatly needed programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the DACC has requested an additional \$525,000 in funding in order to avoid another shortfall and meet the increasing demand for programs and services to assist Austin's most vulnerable citizens in stabilizing their lives to the benefit of the entire Austin community;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee wholeheartedly and enthusiastically supports the DACC's request for funds to continue providing needed services to its clients, including an additional \$525,000 in funding so that necessary funds for these greatly needed services are not depleted mid-fiscal year.

Date of Approval: May 20, 2016

Lori Renteria (Sponsor), Catherine Miller (Co-Sponsor)

Record of the vote: (Unanimous on a 6-0-1 vote, with one abstention)

Attest: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Lori Renteria", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops.



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

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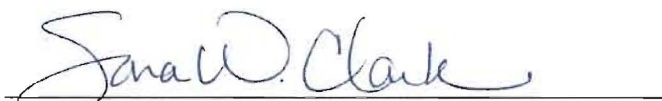
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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee wholeheartedly and enthusiastically supports the DACC's request for funds to continue providing needed services to its clients, including an additional \$525,000 in funding so that necessary funds for these greatly needed services are not depleted mid-fiscal year.

Date of Approval: May 20, 2016.

Record of the vote: unanimous, with Cardona-Beiler abstaining

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sara W. Clark", written over a horizontal line.

Sara Wilder Clark

Chair, Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee

Recommendation Number: (20160520-003): Resolution Supporting Creation of a Sobriety Center

WHEREAS, the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee advises the Austin City Council regarding the operation and sustainability of the Downtown Austin Community Court which was created to reduce the impact caused by Class C offenders on the quality of life for Downtown workers, business owners and residents; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Austin Community Court has had the primary jurisdiction for all Class C offenses in not only downtown but also the West Campus Area and the East Cesar Chavez and Guadalupe Neighborhoods east of downtown, areas that have the highest density of alcohol-serving establishments which directly increases the incidences of public intoxication among homeless individuals, college students, soldiers on leave, and tourists resulting in an ever-increasing number of cases before the court; and

WHEREAS, 13,270 cases were filed and processed by the court in FY 14-15; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice is the foundation of the court and it strives to divert first-time offenders by offering community service restitution and substance abuse assessments and counseling services to all, data shows that many offenders accept the ticket, pay the fine, and end up with a criminal history; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee believes a Sobriety Center would not only offer an alternative, safe, and less costly place for intoxicated individuals to sober up, it creates another important portal for professional mental health workers to assess, offer and initiate substance abuse treatment services on a voluntary basis which could prevent some people from suffering a lifetime of chronic substance abuse and mental health issues;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee encourages the Austin City Council and the Travis County Commissioners' Court to work with partner agencies, many who have been working on creating a Sobriety Center since 2002, to find a suitable location (even if temporary) and invest funds for the implementation and operation of a Sobriety Center to not only ease the increasing financial strains on the Downtown Austin Community Court but more importantly, to offer first-time Class C offenders an alternative to using our jails and emergency rooms and an ability to avoid creating or adding to a criminal history which will affect their future access to employment and housing as well as ensuring the Downtown Austin Community Court can focus its attention on providing comprehensive and life-saving services for our many chronically homeless Class C offenders.

Date of Approval: May 20th, 2016

Lori Renteria (Sponsor), Catherine Miller (Co-Sponsor)

Record of the vote: (Unanimous on a 7-0 vote)

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Lori Renteria", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with loops and a large "L" at the beginning.



Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CREATION OF A SOBRIETY CENTER

WHEREAS, the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee advises the Austin City Council regarding the operation and sustainability of the Downtown Austin Community Court which was created to reduce the impact caused by Class C offenders on the quality of life for Downtown workers, business owners and residents; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Austin Community Court has had the primary jurisdiction for all Class C offenses in not only downtown but also the West Campus Area and the East Cesar Chavez and Guadalupe Neighborhoods east of downtown, areas that have the highest density of alcohol-serving establishments which directly increases the incidences of public intoxication among homeless individuals, college students, soldiers on leave, and tourists resulting in an ever-increasing number of cases before the court; and

WHEREAS, 13,270 cases were filed and processed by the court in FY 14-15; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice is the foundation of the court and it strives to divert first-time offenders by offering community service restitution and substance abuse assessments and counseling services to all, data shows that many offenders accept the ticket, pay the fine, and end up with a criminal history; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee believes a Sobriety Center would not only offer an alternative, safe, and less costly place for intoxicated individuals to sober up, it creates another important portal for professional mental health workers to assess, offer and initiate substance abuse treatment services on a voluntary basis which could prevent some people from suffering a lifetime of chronic substance abuse and mental health issues;

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee:

That we urge the Austin City Council and the Travis County Commissioners' Court to work with partner agencies, many who have been working on creating a Sobriety Center since 2002, to find a suitable location (even if temporary) and invest funds for the implementation and operation of a Sobriety Center to not only ease the increasing financial strains on the Downtown Austin Community Court but more importantly, to offer first-time Class C offenders an alternative to using our jails and emergency rooms and an ability to avoid creating or adding to a criminal history which will affect their future access to employment and housing as well as ensuring the Downtown Austin Community Court can focus its attention on providing comprehensive and life-saving services for our many chronically homeless Class C offenders.

Date of Approval: May 20, 2016

BY: The Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee

Record of the vote: unanimous

ATTEST:

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Sara Wilder Clark, Chairperson

Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee