

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

Austin City Council	<b>Item ID</b>	74147	<b>Agenda Number</b>	27.
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<b>Meeting Date:</b>	8/31/2017	<b>Department:</b>	Austin Police Department
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**Subject**

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER to review cases involving DNA evidence processed by the Austin Police Department DNA Laboratory for legal materiality in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

**Amount and Source of Funding**

Funding in the amount of \$50,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Operating Budget of the Austin Police Department. Funding in the amount of \$50,000 is available through an interlocal agreement with Travis County

**Fiscal Note**

<b>Purchasing Language:</b>	
<b>Prior Council Action:</b>	
<b>For More Information:</b>	Troy Gay, Assistant Chief, Austin Police Department (512) 974-5030
<b>Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:</b>	
<b>MBE / WBE:</b>	
<b>Related Items:</b>	

**Additional Backup Information**

This interlocal agreement defines responsibilities and obligations of the City of Austin and the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) for the purpose of providing consulting services to review cases involving DNA evidence processed by the Austin Police Department (APD) DNA lab for legal materiality.

This legal review is necessary due to findings presented in the May 2016 Texas Forensics Science Commission (TFSC) audit report which indicated that methods and tools used by the APD DNA Lab to analyze evidence in a number of criminal cases were not in compliance with applicable scientific standards. UNTHSC possesses the expertise and resources necessary to perform a comprehensive analysis and identify the cases in which evidence analyzed by the lab is determined to be material to the conviction of the defendant.

The primary goal of this agreement is to provide an avenue for defendants to rectify convictions in which DNA evidence may have been improperly tested.