

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: March 1, 2018

Item Number: **008**

Police

Approve a resolution authorizing the extension of line of duty injury leave of absence for Austin Police Department Sergeant Zachary La Hood.

Lead Department	Austin Police Department.
Fiscal Note	Funding in the amount of \$150,200 is available in the FY2017-18 Austin Police Department Operating Budget.
For More Information	Troy Gay, Assistant Chief, Austin Police Department (512) 974-5030.

Additional Backup Information:

APD is requesting that City Council extend APD Sergeant Zach LaHood’s leave of absence for up to one year, at full pay, for an illness or injury related to his line of duty. Texas Local Government Code section 143.073 provides that a municipality shall provide to a fire fighter or police officer a leave of absence for an illness or injury related to the person’s line of duty. The leave must be at full pay for a period commensurate with the nature of the line of duty illness or injury. If necessitated by the illness or injury, the leave must continue for at least one year.

At the end of the year, the municipality’s governing body may extend the line of duty illness or injury leave at full or reduced pay. If the governing body chooses not to extend the leave, or if the person’s salary is reduced below 60 percent of the regular monthly salary, the person may be entitled to retire on pension until able to return to duty.

On March 18, 2017, Sgt. LaHood was injured by carbon monoxide exposure while performing the duties of a uniformed Austin Police Sergeant. His current leave of absence expires on March 18, 2018. At the time he suffered his injury, Sgt. La Hood was operating a City of Austin Ford Police Interceptor. Sgt. LaHood has been on a leave of absence, at full pay, since March 18, 2017. Sgt. LaHood is currently in a rehabilitation program to restore his health and mental abilities, and to return to work. He intends to return to work when he receives medical clearance. Council approval of this item would extend Sgt. LaHood's leave of absence until March 18, 2019, if necessitated by his injuries.