



Public Safety Commission Recommendation no. 20180507-006

Regarding City of Austin sales or trade-ins of Austin Police Department used firearms

Date: May 7, 2018

Subject: Recommendation regarding sales or trade-ins of Austin Police Department used firearms

Motioned By: Commissioner Rebecca Gonzales

Seconded By: Commissioner Ed Scruggs

WHEREAS the Public Safety Commission supports policies that help ensure the safety, health, and welfare of Austin residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS gun violence claims more than 30,000 lives annually¹, and firearms-related fatalities are a primary cause of death for police officers killed in the line of duty²; and

WHEREAS firearm-related injuries are estimated to be \$46 billion in hospital charges per year³; and

WHEREAS the Austin Police Department requires high-caliber firearms and must periodically purchase new guns and render older guns obsolete;

WHEREAS the Austin Police Department recently traded in a large number of firearms to a licensed gun dealer for resale, and

WHEREAS existing laws do not prevent the possibility that firearms sold to a licensed gun dealer could be purchased by an individual who would fail background check standards or resale or transfer the weapon to an individual who has criminal intentions; and

WHEREAS there is no process for tracking whether guns sold by the Austin Police Department are subsequently used in a violent crime; and

WHEREAS alternatives exist for deactivating firearms and reusing the metal or pieces of obsoleted law enforcement firearms;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Public Safety Commission recommends to the Austin City Council that a policy be developed that prevents any city department to enter into a contract for the sale or trade-in of any City-owned weapons or firearms to licensed gun dealers or any party other than current Austin Police Department Officers or certified police who are employed by the City at the time the firearms are rendered obsolete.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Public Safety Commission recommends that any current contract for such an agreement be terminated immediately.

Vote 8-2-0

For: 8 (Commissioners Carol Lee, Rebecca Gonzales, Preston Tyree, Noel Landuyt, Ed Scruggs, Daniela Nunez, Kim Rossmo, and Michelle McCurdy)

Against: 2 (Commissioners Rebecca Webber and Brian Haley)

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1 (Commissioner Sam Holt)

Attest: *[Staff or board member can sign]*



Janet Jackson, Board Liaison,
Austin Police Department

¹ <https://www.bradycampaign.org/sites/default/files/GunDeathandInjuryStatSheet3YearAverageFINAL.pdf>, 12/28/2012.

¹ 2017 Law Enforcement Officer Fatalities Report, www.LawMemorial.org/FatalitiesReport

¹ "The Price of Gun Violence," Health Affairs, November 2, 2017,
<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20171031.874550>