

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: October 4, 2018

Item Number: 009

Municipal Court

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Travis County Community Supervision and Corrections Department to establish a community service restitution project for a term of 4 years.

Lead Department	Municipal Court.
Fiscal Note	This item has no fiscal impact.
For More Information	Pete Valdez, Court Administrator for DACC, 512-974-4873.

Additional Backup Information:

In 2004, the Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC) established a Community Service Restitution (CSR) work crew program in which the City of Austin provides work assignments for defendants who are court-ordered to perform community service hours in satisfaction of fines, costs, or other obligations or penalties owed to DACC and other courts.

Since inception of the CSR work crew program, the DACC has accepted clients of Travis County Adult Probation Department, now known as the Travis County Community Supervision and Corrections Department, on its CSR work crews through an agreement that a former DACC Court Administrator entered. Under the agreement, Travis County Community Supervision and Corrections Department agreed to refer adult defendants on probation to the DACC CSR work crew program to complete community service hours under the supervision of DACC CSR work crew leaders. The agreement was last made on January 1, 2008, and has been automatically renewed every September 1st with the right

of either party to terminate at will. There has never been an exchange of monetary compensation by either party.

Travis County recently proposed an updated version of the agreement. The updated version of the agreement would allow the DACC CSR work crew program to operate in the same manner as in the past. However, the term of the updated agreement would be limited to a term of four years and would not include automatic renewals every September 1st. It would include the opportunity to terminate the agreement at will and allow the DACC to rescind referrals for legitimate, non-discriminatory reasons. The DACC is seeking approval to negotiate and execute the updated version of the agreement in accordance with the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791, Texas Government Code.

The following is some information on how the DACC CSR work crew program currently operates or is utilized by the City of Austin and Travis County. DACC CSR work crews operate seven days a week, Monday through Sunday from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and perform graffiti abatement, trash removal, landscaping, planting, removal of homeless encampments and a number of miscellaneous tasks as requested by other City departments. Since three of the six DACC crew leaders are funded by Austin Code and Austin Resource Recovery, DACC CSR work crews prioritize the work orders forwarded by these two departments. Each DACC Crew Leader closely supervise a maximum of five defendants from DACC, Municipal Court, and Travis County per CSR activity. DACC and Municipal Court defendants are picked up at the DACC location at 719 E. 6th St. and Travis County adult defendants are picked up at 10409 Burnet Rd. (Travis County Probation North Unit) and 4011 McKinney Falls Parkway (Travis County Probation South Unit). Since many DACC defendants are often individuals experiencing homelessness along with physical disabilities, mental health issues and substance use issues, the majority of the defendants on DACC CSR work crews are referred by Travis County.