

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING FOUR-PERSON STAFFING FOR ALL FIRE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE APPARATUS

BE IT ORDANED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. The Council makes the following findings:

- (A) The Council recognizes public safety as a top priority.
- (B) The Austin Fire Department is tasked with protecting the lives and property of the residents of Austin.
- (C) Staffing studies, including the 1993 Austin Fire Department Staffing Study, have shown that four-person firefighter staffing has a positive impact on safety and efficiency during Fire Department operations.
- (D) National studies funded by the Department of Homeland Security and conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and Worcester Polytechnic Institute studied the effect of crew size on performance at residential fires, high rise fires, and emergency medical incidents, and have validated the results of the 1993 Austin Fire Department Staffing Study.
- (E) The City of Austin began working toward four-person staffing in the early 1990s and achieved constant four-person staffing shortly after receiving a SAFER Grant in 2012.
- (F) The National Fire Protection Association’s NFPA 1710 Standard requires a minimum of four firefighters per each firefighting apparatus.
- (G) Texas Commission on Fire Protection Rule 435.17(a)(1) requires that a team of at least four fire protection personnel must be assembled before an interior fire attack can be performed when a fire has progressed beyond the incipient stage.

30 (H) The Austin Fire Department’s current policies and practices require constant
31 staffing of four firefighters on all front-line emergency response apparatus.

32 (I) Critical emergency response calls require at least four-person firefighter
33 staffing on each apparatus to safely and efficiently mitigate the hazards
34 encountered by firefighters.

35 **PART 2.** All Austin Fire Department engine companies, ladder companies, quint
36 companies, and rescue companies actively engaged in an emergency response shall be
37 staffed with a minimum of four firefighters. Provided, however:

38 (A) This requirement does not apply to apparatus used in a supervisory or support
39 capacity;

40 (B) This requirement does not apply in the event of operating conditions defined
41 in Part 2 of resource condition Level III, or higher, in the Austin Fire
42 Department emergency operations plan, General Order Number G301.1,
43 effective date 10/1/2011; and

44 (C) Engine, ladder, quint, or rescue companies may be staffed with three
45 firefighters for a period normally not to exceed three hours in the event of
46 unforeseen staffing shortages.

47 **PART 3.** This ordinance becomes effective December 24, 2018.

48 **PASSED AND APPROVED**

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50 §
51 §
52 _____, 2018 § _____

53 Steve Adler
54 Mayor

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57 **APPROVED:** _____
58 Anne L. Morgan
59 City Attorney

57 **ATTEST:** _____
58 Jannette S. Goodall
59 City Clerk

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