




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Alex Gale, Interim Officer, Office of Real Estate Services 

DATE: July 10, 2019

SUBJECT: Update regarding the relocation of the Austin Municipal Court and Downtown Austin Community Court (Resolution No. 20180215-048)

On February 15, 2018, Council approved [Resolution No. 20180215-048](#) directing the City Manager to identify all options for the relocation of both the Austin Municipal Court and the Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC). The resolution further directed staff to create one regional facility to serve the north and one regional facility to serve the south and to develop recommendations for the current Austin Municipal Court site.

Austin Municipal Court

At the request of the Judicial Committee, the Office of Real Estate Services (ORES) delivered a presentation to the committee on February 26, 2019 regarding the status of the resolution. The presentation noted that Council approved the authorization and negotiation of a 10-year lease for 96,000 square feet of space, with one option for an additional ten years, at 6800 Burleson Road, and the planned completion and move-in was estimated to be December 2019. Future pursuit of a northern regional facility will be paused as the lease space (96,000 square feet of space) is large enough to consolidate operations and anticipated growth until the end of the 10-year term.

As an update, move in will be pushed back to April 2020, due to unanticipated design and construction work for the unique space needs.

The February 26, 2019 presentation also noted that the Municipal Court North Payment Center, currently located within the North Austin Police Department (APD) Substation on Lamplight Village, has become overcrowded and inefficient for the services it provides to the community. Moving forward, ORES staff has been looking for a strategic lease or purchase to accommodate the payment center in a North location.

Downtown Austin Community Court

Lastly, regarding an update on options for the relocation of the DACC, ORES staff has been exploring multiple possibilities for a site including using existing governmental facilities, leasing commercial space, building on City land, and acquiring a new location. ORES staff is currently focusing on finding either a site to acquire for the permanent housing of the DACC or a site that will allow a lease with a purchase option. If a suitable site cannot be found for acquisition, then ORES staff may recommend the lease of a building at a new location to temporarily house the DACC.

ORES will continue to keep Mayor and Council informed of the work progress. Please feel free to contact me at (512) 974-1416, if you have any questions.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Rodney Gonzales, Assistant City Manager
Judge Sherry Statman, Austin Municipal Court