

# Board and Commission Council Committee Agenda Item Request

Name of Board or Commission: **Public  
Safety Commission**

Request Number: **20191104-004**

Description of Item: **PSC Recommendation that Council Stop Giving Special Event Fee Waivers to For Profit Corporations. One of the reasons given by the PSC for this request is the new property tax caps will require council to look critically at non-mandatory expenditures. In addition the 2019 price tag to Austin taxpayers for SXSW's use of Austin public safety services and other services such as Resource Recovery was \$2,275,608.45**

Board or Commission Vote to refer item to Council: **Motioned by Commissioner Preston Tyree, Seconded by Commissioner Meghan Hollis on a unanimous vote (11-0).**

Date of Approval of Request: **November 4, 2019**

Attachments:  Yes  No

If yes, please list the attachments: **Recommendation 20190903-003**

Attest:

**Janet Jackson, Board Liaison, Austin Police Department (512) 974-5747**

## MAYOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY

Council Committee Assigned:

- Audit and Finance Committee
- Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee
- Mobility Committee
- Health and Human Services Committee
- Housing and Planning Committee
- Judicial Committee

Recommend a Fiscal Analysis be completed?

Recommend a Legal Analysis be completed?

Notes:

Mayor Signature & Date:



**Public Safety Commission Recommendation no. 20190903-003**

Date: September 3, 2019

**Subject: Recommendation that Austin City Council Stop Giving Special Event Fee Waivers to For-Profit Corporations**

**Motioned by: Rebecca Webber**

**Seconded by: Ed Scruggs**

1. Whereas, Austin Police, Fire, and EMS personnel work extra hours and overtime to keep attendees safe at Austin's many festivals, and special events.
2. Whereas, the cost for these overtime hours is typically passed on to festival promoters and organizers in the form of special event fees,
3. Whereas, most of Austin's for-profit festivals, such as ACL ,pay these extra public safety costs,
4. Whereas, in contrast to ACL, SXSW, which is also a for-profit festival, annually requests that Council waive its special events fees so that taxpayers pay for SXSW's public safety services,
5. Whereas, in the past, City Council has annually waived SXSW's public safety fees,
6. Whereas, the new property tax caps will require Council to look critically at nonmandatory expenditures, and
7. Whereas, the 2019 price tag to Austin taxpayers for SXSW's use of Austin public safety services and other services such as Resource Recovery was \$2,275,608.45, now therefore,

**The Public Safety Commission recommends that City Council stop giving special event fee waivers to for-profit corporations but continue to waive special event fees on a case-by-case basis for non-profit events and festivals.**

**Vote**

For: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 2 (Commissioners Daniela Nunez and Rebecca Bernhardt)

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

Janet Jackson, Board Liaison,  
Austin Police Department