




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Stephanie Hayden, Director 

DATE: January 10, 2020

SUBJECT: Staff Response Resolution 20190606-100

On June 6, 2019, Council passed Resolution 2019060-100. This resolution directed the City Manager to assess the potential impacts of boycotting staff business travel to Alabama and to engage women's reproductive healthcare stakeholders in a discussion.

In response to the resolution, a stakeholder discussion with City staff was held on October 8th. The discussion was facilitated by the Community Engagement Division of the Communications & Public Information Office.

This memorandum provides a comprehensive response from Austin Public Health (APH), Austin Police Department (APD), Austin Fire Department (AFD), Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) and the Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The primary focus of this response is on staff business travel.

Staff Business Travel Impacts

The Federal Department of Homeland Security's Center for Domestic Preparedness is in Anniston, Alabama. The Center for Domestic Preparedness is a training institute operated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). City departments including Austin Public Health, Austin Police Department, Austin Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services and Homeland Security participate in various trainings provided at the Anniston, Alabama training center. These trainings are critical for preparedness response and readiness. If a ban were to be established an exception for preparedness related training activities would be requested.

The office of Emergency Medical Services reports that their staff travels to Anniston, Alabama annually for training. The training is crucial for EMS staff and is led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and their Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This hands-on advanced training for first responders includes preparedness for incidents involving chemical, biological, explosive, radiological, explosive (CBRNE), and other hazardous materials. It is fully funded by FEMA and they provide transportation, lodging and meals at no cost to the EMS Department. The training provided at the CDP facility in Anniston, AL is not available anywhere else in the nation.





EMS has participated in the following training programs at CDP in the past and found them to be extremely valuable for staff:

- BIA AWR-118 Biological Incidents Awareness
 - This is a 5-day onsite course that provides participants with the advanced skills necessary to safely respond to and manage incidents involving biological hazards.
- CDMCCA PER-335 Critical Decision Making for Complex Coordinated Attacks
 - This 2-day course addresses the vulnerability of any community to a series of intentional attacks that involve multiple threats and often exceed conventional response tactics. The participants learn how to integrate multiple members from various disciplines and jurisdictions.
- EMO PER-267 Emergency Medical Operations for CBRNE Incidents
 - This course prepares responders to effectively respond to a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive or mass casualty incident. This 4-day on-site course includes both classroom education and hand-on practical exercises.
- HCL MGT-901 Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualty Incidents
 - This 4-day course addresses disaster preparedness for healthcare facilities and systems. The training focuses on preparing healthcare leaders from various disciplines to make critical decisions in an all-hazards emergency.
- HOT PER262 Hands-On Training for CBRNE Incidents
 - This course provides participants with hands-on practical exercises that reinforce their ability to perform triage and decontamination procedures. The course reinforces the skills that are necessary for a safe and effective response to a CBRNE incident.

Furthermore, the Austin Police Department would be severely impacted in its ability to train several of its mission critical units if training/travel to Alabama was not allowed. Since 2013, over 75 APD employees have been sent to specialized training in Alabama. Fourteen of APD's officers are scheduled to receive 24 hours of training in Field Force Extraction over the next few months through the Center for Domestic Preparedness. This training provides officers with the knowledge and skills to safely manage protests in order to reduce liability and ensure due process. Alabama is the home of several Federal Training Centers. Most of the training is provided at no cost to the Austin Police Department and otherwise would be very expensive training.

Federal Centers providing this training include the following:

- The National Computer Forensics Institute's (NCFI) innovative facility and strategic partnership serves to substantially enhance law enforcement efforts to suppress the continually evolving and increasing number of electronic crime cases affecting communities nationwide, as well as improve and strengthen the prosecution and adjudication of those cases. NCFI training courses are offered to state and local law enforcement, prosecutors and judges through funding from the federal government.





Travel, lodging, equipment (in some classes), and course fees are provided at no costs to attendees or their agencies. **This facility is in Hoover, AL.**

- FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness provides advanced, all-hazards training to approximately 50,000 emergency responders annually from state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, as well as the federal government, foreign governments, and private entities, as available. The scope of training includes preparedness, protection, and response. Training of state, local, tribal, and territorial responders is fully funded by the Department of Homeland Security. Training of federal, foreign, and private sector responders is on a fee-for-service basis. Since it opened its doors in 1998, the CDP has trained more than 1.1 million responders. **This facility is in Anniston, AL.**
- National Center for Explosives Training and Research (NCETR) consists of the Explosives Enforcement and Training Division; Explosives Research and Development Division; and Fire Investigation and Arson Enforcement Division, **all located at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville**, along with the National Canine Division in Front Royal, Va. At NCETR, ATF provides outstanding training facilities and the unmatched expertise of its training staff in the delivery of life-saving advanced explosives and arson training for explosives handlers, bomb technicians, criminal investigators and military explosives ordnance disposal (EOD) personnel across the nation.
- U.S. Army, Federal Center of Excellence is in **Redstone Arsenal, AL** outside of Huntsville, AL as mentioned above.
- FBI Hazardous Devices School -The FBI's Hazardous Devices School is the only facility in the country that trains and certifies the nation's public safety bomb technicians. Also, in **Redstone Arsenal/Huntsville, AL**

Additionally, the resolution directed the City Manager to identify options for proceeding with boycotting. The Law Department will be providing a separate response to that direction.

If you have any questions, or if I can provide additional information, please contact me at (512) 972-5010 or vial email at Stephanie.Hayden@austintexas.gov.

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