



Public Safety Commission Recommendation no. 20200203-008

Date: February 3, 2020

Subject: Recommendation that Council Direct the City Manager to Implement Straight-forward Solutions to Improve Medics' Lives

Motioned by Commissioner Rebecca Webber

Seconded by Commissioner Daniela Nunez

The Public Safety Commission recommends that Council direct the City Manager to build on recent successes and solutions jointly developed and implemented by the Department and the Austin EMS Association and continue to work with the Association to implement straight-forward solutions that will improve medics' lives:

1. Extend sick call-out time to 7:30am rather than current policy requiring a call by 6:30am.
2. Withdraw newly implemented policy requiring medics who are sick during their on-call assignment to staff a replacement on-call assignment later on.
3. Convert the paging system that is used to alert medics to new calls—currently an emergency tone at one, extremely loud volume—to ramp-up tones which gradually become louder and are already in use by the Austin Fire Department to alert firefighters to new calls.
4. Cease non-essential, extremely loud pages after 10:00pm and use computers in the ambulances for these non-essential messages instead.
5. Limit non-urgent truck change outs (when medics must switch their gear from one ambulance to a different ambulance) to regular business hours and dry weather.
6. Trust that medics are in the best position to determine when they are too ill to care for patients—and are, likewise, highly qualified to determine when work must be missed due to a loved one's illness—and withdraw the patronizing policy of requiring a trip to a doctor's office to obtain a note proving that a medic or a medic's loved one is sick.
7. Add EMS resources to Central Austin because the repeated nightly pattern of extensive EMS needs downtown pulls ambulances from the surrounding neighborhoods.

Vote – Unanimous

For: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

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



Janet Jackson, Board Liaison,
Austin Police Department