



## AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council Members

**FROM:** Brian Manley, Chief of Police

**DATE:** September 28, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Response to Budget Rider – Dedicated Public Safety Officers in area of Red River / 7th Street

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update to an budget rider from the 2019-2020 budget adoption, which directed the City Manager to retain two designated 24-hour public safety officers in the area of Red River and 7th Street, with the intent of restoring a sense of security and safety for residents, employees, tourists, music goers and other individuals in the area.

In response, Austin Police Department (APD) officers monitored this intersection consistently from October 2019 through April 2020. During this timeframe, APD did not observe crime occurring at a greater rate at that location than in other parts of downtown Austin.

Officers are most effective in providing a sense of security and well-being when they are able to freely move about their assigned area, interacting with downtown residents, visitors, and business owners. Stationing officers at a particular intersection would limit that effectiveness. Therefore, APD recommends this request be closed, with the understanding that downtown officers will continue to pay special attention to the Red River and 7th Street area.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager  
Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager