

## Hare, Belinda

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**From:** Diven, Timothy  
**Sent:** Friday, August 6, 2021 4:09 PM  
**To:** Hare, Belinda; Nazor, Craig - BC  
**Subject:** Re: Animal Cruelty Unit

Hi Belinda,

So there has been a major change. The dept has decided to cut us down from 2 to 1 detective. Det Fernandez is being moved out of the Unit. We don't have an exact date, but he has been told to look for a position in one of our "violent crimes" units. Animal Cruelty is considered property crime. So I will be the only cruelty detective for the entire city and Alan Schwettmann will still remain on as the civilian cruelty specialist. They've indicated that disbanding the entire Unit is still on the table but much further down the road.

Tim

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**From:** Hare, Belinda <Belinda.Hare@austintexas.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 6, 2021 3:09:45 PM  
**To:** Diven, Timothy <Timothy.Diven@austintexas.gov>; Nazor, Craig - BC <bc-Craig.Nazor@austintexas.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Animal Cruelty Unit

Hello, Detective Diven.

Please let us know if there have been any changes or updates to the situation with the Animal Cruelty Unit. It is now on the agenda for the Animal Advisory Commission agenda for Monday, August 9, 6 p.m. (couldn't get to it at the last meeting).

Thanks.

Belinda

**From:** Diven, Timothy <Timothy.Diven@austintexas.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:49 AM  
**To:** Nazor, Craig - BC <bc-Craig.Nazor@austintexas.gov>  
**Cc:** Hare, Belinda <Belinda.Hare@austintexas.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Animal Cruelty Unit

Hello Dr. Nazor,

Appreciate you reaching out. We have not heard of any changes (one way or the other) since I sent out that email. What we have unofficially been hearing is that due to the sharp uptick in violent crime in Austin, the department is evaluating whether to reallocate detective positions from property crime units (eg, Animal Cruelty, financial crimes, etc) to our violent crimes units (eg, Homicide, robbery, etc).

We don't believe this would be imminent (they are required to give us a 28 day notice) but we truly just don't know.

If nothing else, it would be great to have just some type of declaration on record from the commission. What we have so far is a collection of letters and emails from animal advocates asking the department not to disband/reallocate us. We

have already presented those to our department, so hopefully they have already taken it into consideration, but every little bit helps.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance, and thank you again.

Tim

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**From:** Nazor, Craig - BC <[bc-Craig.Nazor@austintexas.gov](mailto:bc-Craig.Nazor@austintexas.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2021 5:08 PM  
**To:** Diven, Timothy  
**Subject:** Animal Cruelty Unit

Tim,

My name is Craig Nazor - I am Chair of the Austin Animal Advisory Commission. About a month ago, we received a notice that APD was considering disbanding the Animal Cruelty Unit because of lack of funding. Since the Texas State Legislature passed a bill to prevent funds from being removed from the police, and it has now been signed into law, I was wondering if the Animal Cruelty Unit is still on the chopping block?

I hope not. If it is, we would probably take some action. If not, then we won't have to put it on the agenda.

Thanks for all your great work for Austin!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Craig Nazor  
Chair, Austin Animal Advisory Commission  
[bc-craig.nazor@austintexas.gov](mailto:bc-craig.nazor@austintexas.gov)  
512-836-5087

Craig Nazor  
Boards and Commissions

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