



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager

DATE: November 30, 2021

SUBJECT: Response to Ordinance 20200812-001 Budget Rider 10 – Creation of Department of Emergency Communications and Technology

The purpose of this memo is to provide a response to subject FY 2021 budget rider, which directed the City Manager to explore the creation of a non-sworn Department of Emergency Communications and Technology.

Based on staff's recommendation as outlined in my April 9, 2021 [memo](#), Council approved Ordinance [20210422-020](#) that authorized the City Manager to create an Emergency Communications Department (ECD).

On July 26, 2021, I issued a follow-up [memo](#) related to [HB 1900](#) and the incorporation of the ECD back into the Austin Police Department in the City Manager's Proposed FY 2021 Budget to fully comply with the State's new budget requirements. Action on Budget Rider 10 is now considered complete.

Separately, Council adopted Ordinance [20210811-001](#) Casar Budget Rider 1 – Forensics/911, which directed the City Manager, in part, to "send a request to the Criminal Justice Division of the Office of the Governor to make the budgets for the Forensics Science Office and the Emergency Communications Department independent of the police department". Actions on this budget rider will be reported separately.

Please contact me should you have questions or require additional information.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
CMO Executive Team
Chief Joseph Chacon, Austin Police Chief
Kerri Lang, Interim Budget Officer