



## **Annual Internal Review**

**This report covers the time period of 7/1/2019 to 6/30/2020**

### **Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Board**

**The Board/Commission mission statement** (per the City Code) is: The mission of the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Board ("Board"), according to article 2-1-130 of the City Code, is to **"advise the Downtown Austin Community Court on policy and operational issues, and advise the council on the policies and operations of the court."** The purpose of the Downtown Austin Community Court is to collaboratively address the quality of all residents in the downtown Austin community through the swift, creative sentencing of public order offenders. The Court seeks to hold people responsible while also offering help to change behavior.

- 1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**

During the reporting period (7/1/2019 to 6/30/2020), the Board met (4) times. Two meetings were cancelled due to lack of quorum and one meeting due to changes in meeting requirements related to the Covid-19 pandemic. All meetings were posted to and open to the public. Our primary actions during these meetings were:

**Educational:** We received presentations on a regular basis from individuals experiencing homelessness who have interacted with the Community Court, along with their Case Managers, including individuals with and without prior criminal histories. We received regular updates and information concerning homelessness efforts including the Austin Homeless Advisory Council, emergency shelter redesign, City planning, budget changes and development opportunities. Updates were provided by the Austin Police Department and we received a presentation from Chief Manley on ordinance changes, implementation and enforcement strategies. The Office of Real Estate presented on efforts to assist the Community Court find a new location. Neighborhood Housing and Community Development presented on mapping projects identifying areas experiencing increases in homeless camps. Lastly, the Board discussed at length during meetings the strengths and challenges of the Coordinated Entry System and the barriers impacting housing placement in the City of Austin.

#### **Recommendations and Other Actions:**

Throughout the year, the Board asked for information necessary to provide educated advice to DACC staff and reviewed information submitted in response to the Board. On June 7,

2019 the Board approved Recommendation No. 2019067-3a, in support of the Austin Homeless Advisory Council resolution to address storage needs for people experiencing homelessness. In addition, the Board reviewed a report including surveys of people with lived experience submitted by the Austin Homeless Advisory Council, and recommended the City Council provide funding for storage and request a process be in place to address this important need.

**2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.**

The Board's actions during this reporting period comply with the Board's mission statement. All the educational aspects of our meetings, described above, were designed to enable us to understand the policy and operational needs of the Community Court, so that we may give informed advice to the Community Court with regards to Community Court policies and operations. Our recommendations to Community Court staff and leadership were built upon the knowledge learned, and offered in support of the policies and operations of the Community Court.

**3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.**

The Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Board goals for the upcoming year include:

- Work with City Council to identify a new location to relocate Community Court in order to support the expanding needs for space to accommodate Community Court's staff, programming needs and its increased scope.
- Continue to learn about, monitor, and support the implementation of evidenced based practices to address issues of race and equity, recidivism and homelessness.
- Continue to work with Community Court to assess and advocate for system redesign and funds to address the complex needs of the people served by Community Court.
- Work with the Community Court to advise on how to best deliver services to individuals experiencing homelessness during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,



Darilynn Cardona-Beiler, Chair