



RECOMMENDATION

Commission for Women

Recommendation Number 20230503-005:Collective Sex Crimes Response Model

WHEREAS, the Commission for Women (“Commission”) of the City of Austin (“City”) serves as an advisory body that advocates for and inspires the City Council (“Council”) and City Manager to prioritize women’s quality of life, so that Austin becomes the most equitable city in the nation for women and girls; and

WHEREAS, in September 2019, the City Manager’s Office contracted the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), in conjunction with the Women’s Law Project and the Wellesley Centers for Women, to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the way sexual assaults reported to the Austin Police Department (APD) are investigated and processed; and

WHEREAS, on November 14, 2022, the final PERF report was released, [*Austin Police Department \(APD\) Review, Reported Sexual Assault Comprehensive Evaluation*](#), and included comprehensive findings and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Police Department has been working with the Austin/Travis County Sexual Assault Response and Resource Team (SARRT) to address the PERF recommendations and take actions, including revisions to APD policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, the Collective Sex Crimes Response Model (CSCRM) was established to coordinate the full response to the PERF report, and includes representatives from APD, SARRT, nonprofit and community organizations, survivors and survivor advocates; and

WHEREAS, survivors who contribute their time, expertise and lived experiences to these efforts have not been compensated; and

WHEREAS, the work of the CSCRM is significant in scope, spanning multiple working groups to address over 140 items, and is expected to continue for months; and

WHEREAS, funding is allocated to hire a project manager for the CSCRM;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Commission recommends:

- That survivors who participate in the CSCRM, and in other City working groups and tasks forces, be compensated for the contribution of their experiences and expertise.
- That the project manager hired for the CSCRM be independent of APD.

Date of Approval: Wednesday, May 3, 2023

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 7-0 vote

Attest: *Tabitha Taylor*

(Staff Liaison, Tabitha Taylor)

For: Chair Diana Melendez, Juliana Gonzales, Rebecca Austen, Pam Rattan, Julie Glasser, Maria Veloz Salas, and Jocelyn Tau