



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION No. 20230710-006**

Date: July 10, 2023

Subject: APD/DPS Partnership

Motioned by: Nelly Paulina Ramirez

Seconded by: Lauren Peña

Recommendation: The Public Safety Commission recommends

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2023 a partnership between the Austin Police Department and the Department of Public Safety partnership commenced without notice to or input from the community or elected representative to the Austin City Council;

WHEREAS, the total number of DPS traffic stops between 3/30/23 and 4/27/23 (11,841)¹ is equivalent to 91.8% of the Austin Police Department's total traffic stops (12,889)² for the entirety of 2022.

WHEREAS, 74.2% of those DPS traffic stops targeted the City of Austin's communities of color.³

WHEREAS, ICM Jesus Garza and IACM Bruce Mills acknowledged that even the perception of racial profiling undermines public trust in their May 1, 2023 memo to Mayor and Council.

WHEREAS there is no interlocal agreement between the Austin Police Department and the Department of Public Safety outlining parameters, requirements, and goals of the partnership.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin's most vulnerable communities are feeling the negative impacts of the DPS presence without any governing documents for the partnership to guide accountability.

WHEREAS, community engagement on the partnership has been limited.

¹ May 1, 2023 Letter to Mayor Kirk Watson from DPS Director
<https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=407852>

² April 3, 2023 APD Presentation to Public Safety Commission on Traffic Enforcement and Management
<https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=405874>

³ May 1, 2023 Letter to Mayor Kirk Watson from DPS Director
<https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=407852>

WHEREAS, the length of the partnership remains undefined;

WHEREAS, impacts on APD's ability to address their staffing deficiencies in relation to the partnership have yet to be defined;

WHEREAS, as of July 10, 2023 APD does not have the departmental technology and/or resources to make the data from the partnership publicly available.⁴

WHEREAS, On July 1, 2023 a partnership between the Austin Police Department (APD) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) partnership relaunched during a planned and anticipated Austin City Council break therefore limiting opportunities for community input;

BE IT RECOMMENDED BY THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN THAT:

- The partnership between the Austin Police Department and the Department of Public Safety be discontinued unless there is significant community engagement and an Austin City Council resolution establishing a formal interlocal agreement between APD & DPS, adopting parameters and guidelines that define goals, time periods, accountability, data sharing, reporting and expectations.

Vote:

For: 6 – Commissioners Bernhardt, Hall-Martin, Orr, Peña, Ramírez, and Smith

Against: - Zero

Abstain: Commissioner Nguyen, and Ruttan

Absent: Holmes

Attest: *Janet Jackson*

Janet Jackson _____

⁴ July 10, 2023 – Public Safety Commission Follow-Up Responses (in backup, link trailing)