

Austin Commission for Women
Recommendation 20230815-xx:
FY2023-2024 Funding for APD Victim Services

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, the Victim Services Division provides essential advocacy and support to survivors of sex crimes and domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has recommended annual funding for Victim Services counselors to meet the growing needs of the community, including the following:

- March 2, 2022 - 20220302-02d: Public Safety Recommendations
- August 5, 2020 - 20200805-02Aii: Victim Services
- June 22, 2020 - 20200622-03A1: Race and Gender Equity
- July 10, 2019 - 20190710-03a02: Budget for Victim Services
- February 14, 2018 - 20180214-04c: Hiring of 5 FTE Victims Services Counselors; and

WHEREAS, the Victims Services Division includes 10 positions that are funded by Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) grants through September 2023, and due to the competitiveness of the grants it is not guaranteed that new VOCA funding will be available in FY2024;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Commission recommends that Council and the City Manager ensure funding for Victim Services counselors is maintained at current levels through FY2023-2024, with grants and/or funding from the City budget, to ensure that survivors of sexual violence and other crimes receive the trauma-informed services and support they need to heal and thrive.