

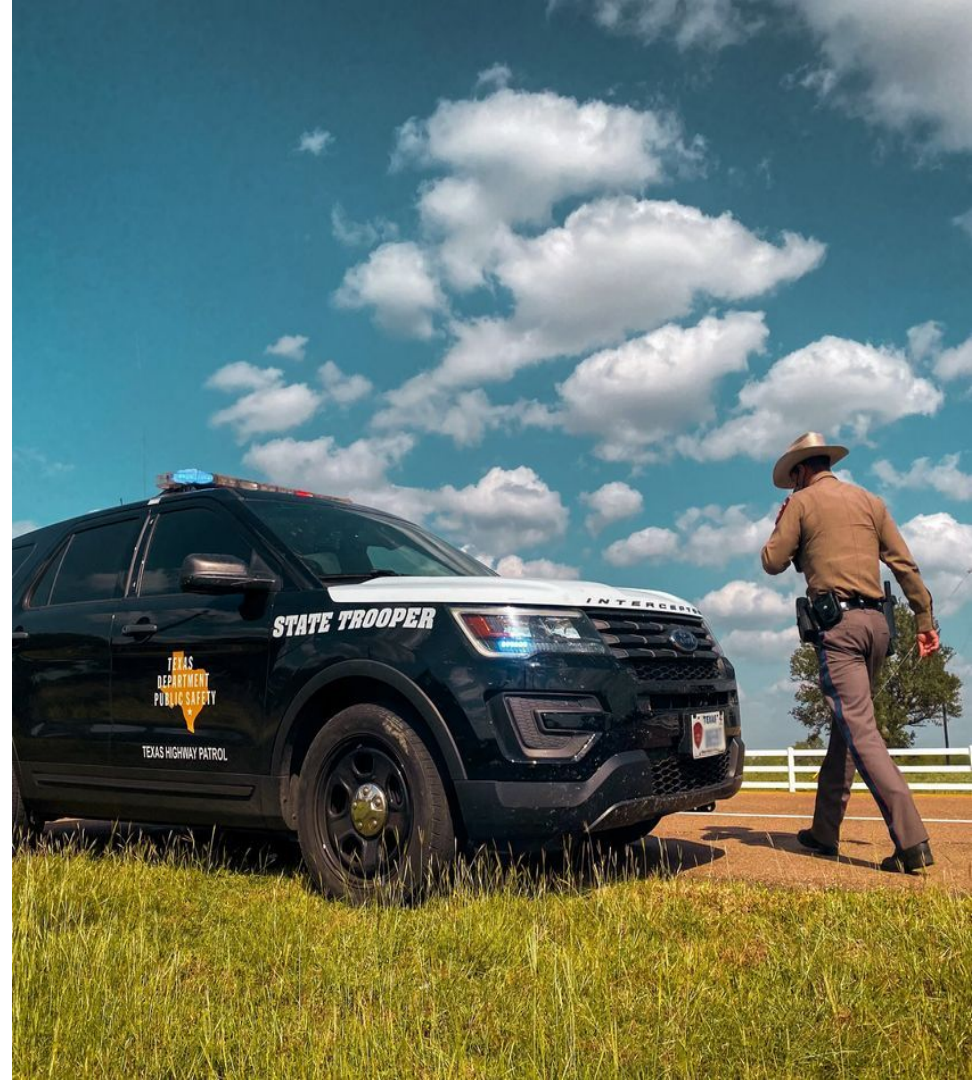
DPS Deployment to Austin



A Presentation for the African American Resource Advisory
Commission

What is DPS?

- Department of Public Safety for the State of Texas
- responsible for statewide law enforcement and driver license administration
- contains many divisions including the Texas Rangers
- most visible division is highway patrol that enforces traffic and criminal law, usually in unincorporated areas
- the Governor of Texas may assume command of the department



Why is DPS Patrolling Austin?

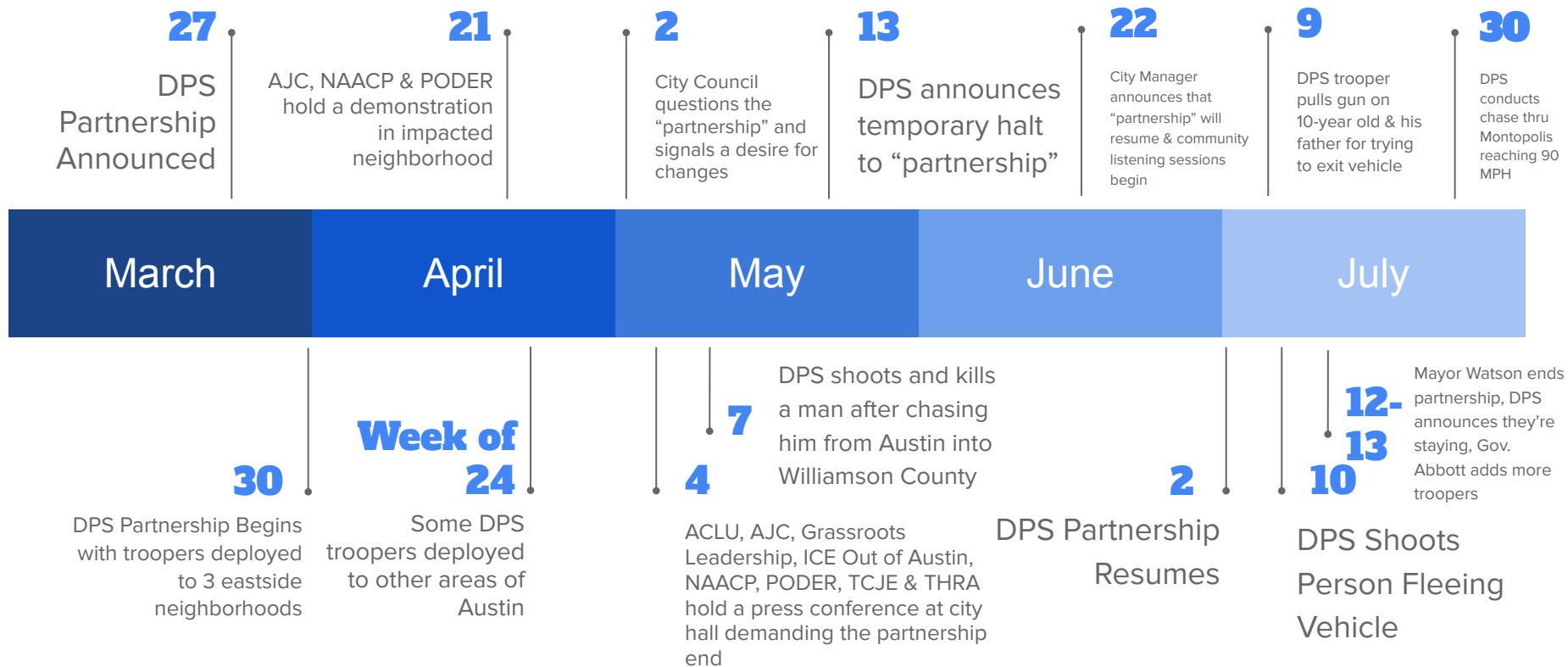
Known Process

- Deal struck between Mayor Watson, Governor Abbott and Lt. Governor Patrick 3 days before announcement
- No consultation with community, council members or county stakeholders
- No formal agreement or rules governed the “partnership”

Stated Reasons

- Austin Police staffing drop
- Reduce 9-1-1 call response times
- Reduce violent crime
- Reduce traffic fatalities

Timeline for the DPS Partnership



112

Days of the partnership between March 30 and July 20

30,135

Traffic stops by DPS from March 30 - July 20

269

Traffic stops / day

11

Total stolen vehicles recovered

6

Felony charges / day



Warrants served / day

Top Community Concerns

**Anger at
unfairness of
patrol
placement and
process**

**Anxiety from
repeated stops
and searches**

**Fear of financial
burden, arrest,
deportation and
violence**

Ongoing Issues

Pretext Stop Campaigns Cause More Harm

Studies of these type of efforts show they lead to unjust racial disparities in stops, searches, and arrests and greatly decrease trust in law enforcement
In Austin 9 out of 10 folks arrested in the 1st month were Black or Brown.

DPS Policies Increase Negative Outcomes

DPS policy doesn't align with APD regarding arrest, search, chase, use of force, body cam release, filing complaints, etc. in ways that both increase the likelihood of harmful outcomes and Austinites don't expect.

Unknown Timetable & Direction

It's unclear how DPS now decides where to patrol, what to prioritize, whether they'll face any accountability for wrongdoing, and how long they'll patrol here.

What's Needed Now

Our community needs information about how to stay safe when driving, what to expect when stopped by DPS and how to respond to any misconduct they experience from troopers.

Outstanding Questions

- To what extent does the City of Austin continue to coordinate with DPS?
 - Does the City of Austin maintain any leverage in determining where DPS patrols and what functions they perform?
 - Will the City be apprised about any future direction of these patrols?
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Questions?