

# APD Special Events



# Special Events Governance

- City Ordinance No. 20180510-018 governs special events in the City of Austin. (Effective May 21, 2018)
- The Austin Center for Events (ACE) manages special events in accordance with the City Ordinance.
- ACE is comprised of employees from City departments that regulate, permit, or host special events. There are eleven (11) ACE members.
- ACE reviews applications for special event permits; and shall approve or deny applications in compliance with the City Ordinance and rules adopted under the City Ordinance

# Special Events Definition

Special Event means an event that:

- a) Has 100 or more attendees per day at a city facility, other than the Austin Convention Center, Long Center, City Hall, or Palmer Events Center.
- b) Impacts a city street, sidewalk, alley, walkway, or other city public right-of-way other than as permitted under Chapter 14-6 (Temporary Street Closures); or
- c) Is temporary, involves 100 or more attendees per day; and
  - i. Is consistent with the permanent use to which the property may legally be used, or the occupancy levels permitted on the property; and
  - ii. Includes one of the following: set up of temporary structures, including, but not limited to, tents, stages, or fences; use of sound equipment in an area described in Section 4-20-43(A); or provision of food and beverages, including alcohol.

# Special Events are Increasing in Austin

## Special Events Applications by Year

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
705	*633	724	859	1059+

\* 409 Special Event Applications/Permits were cancelled in 2020 due to COVID 19

Special Events occur throughout the year in Austin.



# Special Events Increase FY21-22 to FY22-23

## Tier 1: 288.24% (Smallest special event)

- No alcohol
- Is stationary and only affects one block; or
- Is moving and only requires a police bubble escort; or
- Is at a city facility, lasts less than five (5) hours, and does not include food or beverages or a request to increase occupancy.

## Tier 2: 23.82%

- Is at a city facility with less than 2,500 attendees per day; or
- Lasts four (4) days or less, held on private property, and has less than 2,500 attendees per day; or
- Is stationary and only affects up to two (2) blocks

## Tier 3: -4.02%

- A special event not covered by Tiers 1, 2, or 4.

## Tier 4: 88.89% (Largest special event)

- An assembly at two (2) or more city facilities and includes the use of city streets, sidewalks, or right-of-ways; or
- Has an estimated need, based on its permit application for \$100,000 or more in city services, staff time, and equipment.

# New High Capacity Venues

- Moody Center – UT Austin Campus
  - 150+ days of sports and entertainment programming
- Moody Amphitheater – Waterloo Greenway
  - 48+ days of music programming
- Q2 Stadium – McKalla Place
  - Year-round events including 30 days of Austin FC matches
- DKR Texas Memorial Stadium (UT Football)

# Annual Events Requiring City Resources

- Juneteenth
  - Austin Symphony 4<sup>th</sup> of July Concert and Fireworks
  - Willie Nelson's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic
  - Austin Pride Parade
  - Austin Bat Fest
  - Zilker Relays
  - Austin City Limits Music Festival
  - Austin Film Festival
  - Austin Book Festival
  - Turkey Trot
  - Austin Marathon
  - Austin Half Marathon
  - SXSW
  - Formula 1 United States Grand Prix
  - PGA Match Play Tour
  - Statesman Cap 10k
  - Cap Tex Triathlon
- Plus 42 other annual events

# APD Event Staffing

## Total Number of Events Posted by the APD Special Events Unit

2022	2023 YTD
1,932	1,416

## Total Number of Positions Posted, Filled, & Unfilled

Positions	2022	2023
Positions Posted	12,507	9,925
Positions filled	10,774	8,225
Positions Unfilled	1,733 (13.85%)	1,700 (17.12%)



# APD Special Event Officer Responsibilities

APD's responsibilities for special events includes:

- Barricade and Traffic Control positions
- Interior Security
- Bubble Escorts
- SWAT Over-watch teams
- CAST (Counter-Assault Strike Team) & RTF (Rescue Task Force) Teams

# APD Special Event Funding

There are two types of funding for special events:

1. Reimbursed, and
2. City Co-sponsored

**Reimbursed** – promoters or other City departments reimburse APD for the costs associated with staffing a special event. Reimbursement includes officer pay, vehicles, watercraft, and dispatcher.

**City Co-sponsored** – APD does not receive reimbursement for costs associated with staffing a special event. There are ~10 City Co-sponsored events per year. City Council approves all City Co-sponsored special events.

# APD Special Event Fees

- City Council approves the Special Event Fee Schedule during the yearly budget process or as needed by amendment.
- All special events fees follow the approved fee schedule.
- All fees are based on the overtime rate (1.5) for the median years at rank, with the exception of the Tier II rate, which is calculated as double time for the median years at rank.
- The APD Special Events unit processes all special event fees and invoices the promoters or other City Departments.
- **~15% of total overtime worked is for special events**(includes both reimbursed and non-reimbursed events)

# APD Special Event Fee Schedule FY24

• Event Scheduling Fee -	\$57.00
• Dispatcher -	\$45/hr.
• Dispatcher -	\$60/hr. (5pm – 6am)
• Reserve Officer -	\$60/hr.
• Police Officer/Cpl.-Det. -	\$77/hr.
• Police Sergeant -	\$95/hr.
• Police Lieutenant -	\$112/hr.
• Police Commander -	\$130/hr.
• Police Officer/Cpl.-Det. (Tier II Vendor Agreed) -	\$103/hr.
• Police Sergeant (Tier II Vendor Agreed) -	\$112/hr.
• Police Vehicle -	\$12.00
• Watercraft -	\$20.00

# APD Staffing Challenges

- Vacancy Levels
- 2x OT for Patrol, Patrol Support Shifts, and Jail OT
- Increased Number of Events/Venues
- 36-Hour Rule (Officers may not work more than 36 hours of Overtime per week in addition to the 40-hour regular work week).

# Staffing Mitigation Efforts

- Code 4 Emergency Services LLC Contracting
  - Approved by City Council at 2/17/2022 meeting
  - Authorizes \$500,000 annually, over 5 years, for assistance at special events
  - Provides Travis County Sheriff Deputies, Travis County Constables, AISD Officers, and TX DPS Troopers to staff special events. Law Enforcement officers must have county jurisdiction to work a special event in the City of Austin.
- ATD Mobility Safety Officers
  - ATD staff are stationed at non-enforcement, secondary barricades on minor roadways
  - APD continues to coordinate the overall traffic control and safety plans
  - Use is limited to areas that do not require an officer per City Ordinance or state law
    - \*Mobility Safety Officers were used for 8 events in 2022
- APD Reserve Officer Program – Currently thirteen (13) APD retirees in training as Reserve Officers
  - Unit implementation scheduled for 1-October-2023

# Special Events Staffing Restrictions

- City Ordinance 20180510-018
  - Section 4-20-51 Personal Security and Property Security
    - a) An event organizer may hire private security, including licensed peace officers that are not employed by the City of Austin, for personal safety or property security during a special event to supplement the service provided by the Austin Police Department.
    - b) (d) Unless a peace officer has been authorized by the police Chief, or is otherwise on duty and acting in an official capacity of their agency, **only peace officers who are commissioned by the City shall be used for traffic control on City streets or in City right-of-way for special events**, as defined by this chapter. In making a determination for authorization, the police chief shall consider the officer's familiarity with local ordinances and rules of the City, and the proximity of the officer's primary jurisdiction to the City.

# Special Events

## Staffing Restrictions (Continued)

- City Ordinance Title 12 – Traffic Regulations
  - Article 5 – Enforcement
    - 12-1-51 – Police Officers to Direct Traffic
      - a) A police officer may direct vehicular and pedestrian traffic by voice, hand, or signal to enforce traffic laws.
      - b) A police officer may direct traffic in the manner that the officer determines is necessary for the safety of persons or property or the expeditious handling of traffic.
- Texas Transportation Code Title 7 – Vehicles and Traffic
  - Chapter 541, Section 541.002
    - Police Officer – means an officer authorized to direct traffic or arrest persons who violate traffic regulations.



Questions?

