




## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council Members

**FROM:** Interim Chief Robin J. Henderson, Austin Police Department 

**DATE:** December 22, 2023

**SUBJECT:** **Staff Update: Implementation of Open Policing Data Release (Resolution 20230914-132)**

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Council Resolution [20230914-132](#) directs the City Manager to develop and implement an enhanced data release for the Austin Police Department (APD). This update provides the implementation timeline and budget requirements to complete online publication of the first Open Policing Data Release.

APD completed an initial evaluation of the current state of available data – both internal and external. APD's suitability study and needs analysis focused on adhering to open data release requirements. With a commitment to openness, accountability, and continuous improvement, the department is allocating all necessary resources to support the successful integration and ongoing maintenance of the Open Policing Data Release. Additionally, technology projects and business programs are in place to ensure that the collection, storage, and release of APD data is optimized.

### **APD Open Policing Data Release Website**

APD created an [Open Policing Data Release website](#), hosted on the City of Austin Open Data Portal. The website will act as a hub for datasets and dashboards to provide analysts and community members with timely, reliable, and well-documented information. This website will serve as the central data repository housing all previous, current, and future data, presentations and systems.

### **Uniform Crime Reporting National Incident-Based Reporting System Crime Dataset & Dashboard - Chief's Monthly Report**

Planned release date: January 18, 2024

The Chief's Monthly Report was identified as a report that should be migrated to provide underlying data in a common open format. Previously, the Chief's Monthly Reports were provided publicly in aggregate PDF format. In accordance with Resolution [20230914-132](#), the reports will be migrated to a dashboard format, with supporting datasets hosted on the APD Open Policing Data Release website, to include explanations and definitions relevant to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The current Chief's Monthly Report PDF and new dashboard versions of the reports will be released concurrently for the first two quarters (through June 2024) to give users

the ability to explore both. The Department will discontinue the PDF version of the Chief's Monthly report effective June 2024, at which point, the public will be able to refer to the Chief's Monthly Report dashboard within the Open Policing Data Release website.

With a planned release date of March 1, 2024, the community will also have access to the following datasets in adherence to the Resolution:

- Cadets in Training
- Retirements and Separations
- Calls for Service Dataset
- Mental Health Services Dataset
- Mental Health Responses Dashboard
- Response Time by Priority
- Use of Force with Demographic Dataset
- Inquiries into Immigration Status
- Searches by Type (probable cause, incident to arrest, consent, etc.) with Demographics
- Total aggregate number of Complaints and Commendations filed with either APD or Office of Police Oversight (OPO)
- Warrant Service Arrests by Lead Charge
- Arrests by Lead Charge
- Warnings by Lead Charge

Per the Resolution, the following datasets have planned release dates after March 1, 2024, as they are dependent on cross-departmental technology projects:

- Categories and Hours Worked. Currently, APD does not have a system to capture the specific activity categories and hours worked by personnel. APD will collaborate with the project teams managing the citywide digital timekeeping system, the current human resource information system, and the City's future human capital management system to establish internal business processes and reports for the following requirements of the resolution:
  - Sworn and Civilian Personnel by Category of Assignment (e.g. patrol, patrol supervisor, academy, administration, 911 call center, airport, etc.)
  - Overtime hours worked by Activity Category by individual employee
  - Overtime Expenditures by Activity Category (patrol, special events, traffic/construction, etc.)
- Citations. Tickets for traffic and lower-level criminal violations are currently filed with the City of Austin Municipal Court. APD does not maintain an authoritative record of paper and electronic citations. A project is in progress to comply with the resolution.
- Discretionary Arrest in Lieu of Citation. The publication of discretionary arrests is particularly challenging and APD will need additional time to provide an anticipated schedule for release. In 2018, APD began reviewing discretionary arrests for nonviolent misdemeanor offenses. The process was manual and required that personnel read each case to identify the reason for the discretionary arrest instead of issuing a citation. Through 2021, cases were reviewed and reasons were documented. From January 2022 forward, no dataset exists that captures the

information. To meet data release requirements, APD recently assigned personnel to manually review 2022 and 2023 discretionary arrests and bring the dataset up to date.

### **Budget**

While a portion of the data release is consistent with information already available on the City of Austin Open Data Portal, the Resolution's requirements for additional categories of data as well as publication on a continuous basis will require dedicated personnel. Continued funding is necessary for four full-time employees: a Program Manager III, a Business Intelligence Consultant, and two Business Processes Specialists. The current approved budget includes partial funding for Fiscal Year 2024. This will need to be appropriated in future fiscal years to maintain personnel and systems for the successful completion of on-going activities to meet the Resolution's requirements.

### **Training**

The Communications & Technology Management Department (CTM) coordinated software training for personnel assigned to produce the APD Open Policing Data Release project. Additional training may be required to meet business needs.

A status update for the first Austin Police Department Open Policing Data Release will be provided on or before March 1, 2024. Should you need more information please contact Auzzie Krobatsch, Acting Police Data Initiatives & Analytics Strategy Officer at [auzzie.krobatschapd@austintexas.gov](mailto:auzzie.krobatschapd@austintexas.gov).

CC:     Jesús Garza, Interim City Manager  
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