



Austin Public Safety Commission

Austin Police Department Booking and Magistration Process

January 8, 2024



Background: Post-Arrest Processes

1. Immediate post-arrest actions occur at Travis Central Booking Facility (“Central Booking”)
2. Central Booking – owned by Travis Co., operated by Travis County Sheriff’s Office (“TCSO”)
3. APD arrests = 60-65% of all arrests processed at Central Booking
4. City and Travis County have interlocal agreement (since 1983) to share duties, responsibilities, and costs at Central Booking



Background - Virtual Magistration Project

Summer 2023: City of Austin & Travis County began renegotiating Central Booking Interlocal Agreement

Costs:

Previous annual cost: \$6.9M

County's recommendation to move forward: \$10.9M*

New negotiated annual cost: \$9.9M

*This amount was updated on 1-11-24 to reflect the correct value



Post-Arrest Process Reevaluation

- **City Issues:**

1. **Cost** – while City's cost will increase from \$6.9M to \$9.9M (FY23 to FY24), the percentage of APD arrests at Central Booking is decreasing (FY22 = 64.66%; FY23 = 61.2%)
2. **Efficiency** – in light of staffing shortages APD needs to minimize arresting officer time spent at Central Booking

- **Conclusion:** evaluate feasibility of alternative post-arrest processes



What We Found

APD can complete all of the same forms and processes required for the magistration process off-site from Central Booking



Comparison of Processes

Examples of forms and processes completed:

Current TCSO Magistration Process	APD Virtual Magistration Process
PC Affidavit	PC Affidavit
Mental health pre-screening	Mental health pre-screening
Financial questionnaire	Financial questionnaire
PSRS Checklist	PSRS Checklist
Computerized Criminal History (CCH)	Computerized Criminal History (CCH)
TCSO Odyssey Review	TCSO Odyssey Review
No CAFA, but will in the future	No CAFA, but will in the future



Next Steps

1. Continued work on design of an alternative post-arrest process
2. Mock trial testing of alternative process (Q1 2024)
3. Ongoing legal review to ensure both state law compliance and protection of arrestee rights
4. Continuing dialogue with Travis Co. re current interlocal contract and potential future alternatives



Questions?