

**RESOLUTION NO. 20240418-050**

**WHEREAS**, in September 2019, the City Manager's Office contracted the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), in conjunction with the Women's Law Project and the Wellesley Centers for Women, to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the way sexual assaults reported to the Austin Police Department (APD) are investigated and processed; and

**WHEREAS**, Plaintiffs filed lawsuits in *Smith et. al. vs City of Austin* and *Senko et. al. vs City of Austin* challenging the legal sufficiency of APD's sexual assault investigations and processes; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and the Plaintiffs in the lawsuits agreed to settlements; and

**WHEREAS**, at the time of Council approval of the lawsuit settlements, Council preemptively directed the City Manager to prioritize the implementation of the policy and budgetary recommendations of the PERF final report; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 14, 2022, the final PERF report—entitled APD Review, Reported Sexual Assault Comprehensive Evaluation—was released, and included comprehensive findings and over 100 recommendations; and

**WHEREAS**, APD worked with the Austin/Travis County Sexual Assault Response and Resource Team (SARRT) to address the PERF recommendations and take actions, including revisions to APD policies and procedures; and

**WHEREAS**, the Collective Sex Crimes Response Model (CSCRM) was established in early 2023 to coordinate the full response to the PERF report and

related lawsuit settlements, and includes representatives from APD, SARRT, nonprofit and community organizations, survivors and survivor advocates; and

**WHEREAS**, the work of the CSCRM is significant in scope, spanning multiple working groups, and has identified serious unmet funding requirements and additional needs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025; and

**WHEREAS**, funding has been allocated to support APD comprehensive sexual assault/trauma curriculum development and delivery, additional detective hours on misdemeanor and cold cases, the hiring of a CSCRM project manager, the implementation of a survivor survey and a stipend for volunteer project members, among others; and

**WHEREAS**, law enforcement staffing shortages and hiring challenges are impacting support for survivors of sexual assault, and training and increased financial support and innovative approaches are needed to overcome these shortfalls; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission for Women recommended that the City allocate investments in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget to ensure complete and timely implementation of the actions resulting from and recommended by the PERF report and CSCRM; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

The City Manager is directed to prioritize funding for APD and the City Fiscal Year 2024-2025 unmet needs funding request detailed in the Commission for Women's recommendation 20240306-004 in the City Manager's upcoming proposed budget.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to provide a written update to Council on the implementation of the PERF recommendations, including details on which of the items listed in the Commission for Women's recommendation 20240306-004 have been funded in the Manager's proposed budget, and this update shall be provided in conjunction with the release of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 proposed budget.

**ADOPTED:** April 18, 2024 **ATTEST:** Stephanie Hall for  
Myrna Rios  
City Clerk