



RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

Public Safety Commission

Recommendation Number: 20260202-006:

Inclement weather response and decentralized intake model

WHEREAS, The Austin Public Safety Commission serves as an advisory body to the city council on all budgetary and policy matters concerning public safety; and

WHEREAS, The City of Austin has been continually improving and growing their inclement weather response as the city faces an increasing number of storms and extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Commission has received briefings from Austin Emergency Management and Austin Homeless Strategies and Operations on inclement weather response; and

WHEREAS, throughout the course of those discussions the commission has expressed a need for multiple embarkation points for inclement weather response; and

WHEREAS, HSEM locates emergency shelter in close proximity to impacted neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, inclement weather impacts residents across every district in the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, CAPMetro limits service during inclement weather; and

WHEREAS, our unhoused neighbors reside all over the city with limited access to transportation and means for securing belongings during inclement weather emergencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Public Safety Commission recommends Austin Emergency Management and Austin Homeless Strategies and Operations shift to a decentralized intake model for inclement weather shelter operations to ensure equitable and safe access across all districts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Public Safety Commission recommends further exploration and assessment of alternative intake models in collaboration with service providers to improve safety for residents as they access emergency services.

Date of Approval: February 2, 2026

Motioned By: Commissioner Bernhardt

Seconded By: Commissioner Sierra-Arévalo

Vote: 6-3

For: Chair Ramírez, Commissioners Bernhardt, Godwin, Hidrogo, Sierra-Arévalo, and Smith

Against: Vice Chair Ruttan, Commissioners Duran and Eger

Abstain: None

Off the dais: None

Absent: Commissioner Holmes

Attest:

*Christi Vitela*

(staff liaison)