Austin

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Stephanie Hayden-Howard, LMSW, Assistant City Manager

From: Jesús Aguirre, MBA, CPRE, Austin Parks and Recreation Director

Date: November 4, 2026

Subject: **Mobile Security Camera Trailer Program Authorization & TRUST Act Compliance Update**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the Austin Parks and Recreation Department (APR) mobile security camera trailer program and its compliance with the City of Austin Transparent and Responsible Use of Surveillance Technology (TRUST) Act.

Building on a 2022–2025 pilot program that helped reduce vehicle break-ins at sites including Mount Bonnell, Zilker Park, and Mayfield Park, APR seeks to contract for mobile, solar-powered security trailers. Mobile security camera trailers provide a flexible, cost-effective way to address crime hotspots across more than 300 park sites without the expense of permanent electrical infrastructure or fixed-location monitoring.

Since the passage of the TRUST Act in February 2026, APR has worked in close collaboration with Austin City Attorney's Office, Austin Financial Services, Austin Technology Services (ATS), and Austin Facilities Management (AFM) to ensure full compliance with TRUST Act guidelines. The mobile security trailers will operate under a Surveillance Use Policy (SUP) and Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) designed to meet all City TRUST Act guidelines for privacy and transparency:

1. Prohibited Technologies: The system does not utilize Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR), facial recognition, biometric tracking, generative AI talk-downs, or agentic AI decision-making.
2. No Audio Listening or Recording: Units have zero inbound microphones and cannot listen to or record visitor conversations. Microphones are restricted to outgoing messages operated by staff or automated prerecorded announcements.
3. Data Access & Limits: Video footage is stored in a CJIS-compliant cloud environment and is automatically deleted after a rolling 60-day period unless exported for an active investigation.
4. Law Enforcement: Law Enforcement has no direct system access. Footage is released only upon written requests tied to an active criminal case reference number, specific location, and timeframe.

5. Vendor Restrictions: The vendor is contractually limited to system maintenance; support and any access are logged. The vendor is restricted from using city data for AI model training.
6. Transparency & Auditing: Active trailer locations will be published on a dedicated APR webpage, physical units will display prominent notice signage, and joint bi-annual audits will be conducted with Austin Technology Services and Austin Facilities Management.

Trailer deployment will prioritize park areas with documented property crimes, theft, vandalism, and rule violations. Placement will be data-driven, determined by APR Leadership in coordination with the Austin Police Department based on 3-1-1 and 9-1-1 crime incident data. Because crime patterns fluctuate throughout the year, mobile trailers offer the flexibility to adapt dynamically rather than remaining fixed permanently in one location.

In accordance with the TRUST Act, APR and ATS will publish the SUP and PIA here online for a four-week public review period. Following the public review, APR will seek City Council approval at the meeting on December 3, 2026, for a three-year contract with two one-year extension options, not to exceed $2,000,000 over five years ($400,000 initially in FY 2026–2027), to deploy up to 10 mobile trailers based on operational need.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at JesusS.Aguirre@austintexas.gov or my office (512) 974-6717.

cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Erika Brady, City Clerk
Jason Hadavi, City Auditor
Mary Jane Grubb, Municipal Court Clerk
Judge Sherry Statman, Municipal Court
CMO Executive Team
Department Directors