

Results of the Commissioners Court Meeting of 6-09-20
All agenda items approved as presented with the following exceptions:
Harris County Commissioners Court
Exceptions to June 09, 2020 Agenda

Page	Item	Department	Exception
6	1.g.9	County Engineer	Change to "Precinct 3"
9	1.p.	County Engineer	Refer to the Comm. Court Analyst's Office to report back on best practices for improving accountability and community engagement in this licensing process.
14	4.g.3	Budget Management	Hold
19	19.a	Travel & Training-Out of Texas	No Action
19	19.b.19	Travel & Training-In Texas	Add "**use of county vehicle"
34	23.d.1	COVID-19	Approve subject to review by County Attorney
35	II.6	Supplemental Items	No Action
35	II.7	Supplemental Items	The Justice Administration Department and representatives of Commissioners Court shall work with PFM Consulting to develop a process for meaningfully engaging the community in the current budgeting evaluations for all criminal justice departments funded by Harris County and return to Commissioners Court in forty-five (45) days with a progress report.
35	II.8	Supplemental Items	<p>The Justice Administration Department (JAD) shall collect monthly reports from the Harris County Sheriff's Office and the Harris County Constable Precincts for sharing with Commissioners Court and publishing on a public site on officer uses of force, including but not limited to those where a weapon was discharged and any related video footage per JAD's policy on releasing of videos, with the data identifying whether the officer was on or off duty, what kind of injury or injuries resulted, where the use of force occurred, and the race, ethnicity, and gender of the officer and of the person on whom the officer used force.</p> <p>The JAD's collection from the Sheriff's Office and the Constables shall be in accordance with the Public Information Act and any other applicable privacy laws and the JAD shall make clear the policy for the release of those videos, and shall consult with the Sheriff and Constables in developing the policy for release of those videos.</p>
35	II.10	Supplemental Items	Add "and Johnny Goyen Park in Precinct Two"

35	II.12	Supplemental Items	<p>The Justice Administration Department (JAD) shall, in conjunction with the Commissioners Court Analyst's Office, analyze the feasibility of creating a county level emergency responder program to handle first-responder responsibilities that Harris County law enforcement agencies currently handle, with an initial update on findings within 30 days and the convening of public hearings upon completion of the report. The study shall address three things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the County could route 911 calls for mental health and substance abuse crisis to non-law enforcement crisis response team. • An assessment of how best to structure crisis response teams to prevent crises before they occur and engage with vulnerable populations to provide referrals for preventative care. • An assessment of the cost of fully funding enough crises response teams to handle all appropriate calls for service. <p>Upon completion of a final report, there shall be a public hearing to present findings.</p>
35	II.13	Supplemental Items	<p>The Justice Administration Department shall, in conjunction with the Commissioners Court Analyst's Office and Public Health, analyze the feasibility and cost of creating a new county level agency or program to administer violence interruption programs based on proven public health techniques to end cycles of violence in the community. The study shall contemplate that this agency or program would operate independent of law enforcement. The initial report on the findings of the study shall be provided within 30 days.</p> <p>Once the report is complete, there shall be a public hearing.</p>
35	II.14	Supplemental Items	<p>The Public Defender's Office shall, in conjunction with the Justice Administration Department, develop a plan for the Public Defender's Office to increase its capacity to handle fifty percent (50%) of indigent defense case</p>

			<p>appointments within the next two years, which plan should be developed for Commissioners Court to consider for incorporation in the next budget cycle, and it shall be presented to Commissioners Court thirty (30) days before budget hearings.</p>
35	II.15	Supplemental Items	<p>The Justice Administration Department shall, in conjunction with the Office of Intergovernmental and Global Affairs and any other interested parties, assess the feasibility and cost of creating an independent oversight board to review allegations of use of force by law enforcement within Harris County. The analysis shall consider elements such as subpoena power, independence from law enforcement, authority to discipline, necessary resources, access the specially trained non-law enforcement investigators. The study shall access best practices and make recommendations about how to empower a rigorous community oversight authority in Harris County. The preliminary report on the findings of this study shall be provided within 30 days.</p> <p>Once the report is complete, there will be a public hearing.</p>
35	II.16	Supplemental Items	<p>The Justice Administration Department (JAD) shall, in conjunction with the Commissioners Court Analyst's Office (CCAO), (i) identify best practices and make recommendations for effective alternatives to punitive criminal justice responses to address poverty, homelessness, public and mental health, substance of use, and violence prevention, (ii) identify best practices and make recommendations proven to reduce criminal justice system involvement, improve community health, and reduce racial disparities in our justice system, (iii) analyze the short and long-term cost effectiveness of current criminal justice approaches to community safety and wellness, compared to potential non-criminal justice intervention alternatives, (iv) make recommendations concerning the continued investment in or reallocation of resources from existing criminal justice system strategies and the investment in or allocation of resources to non-criminal justice system programs and structures that further these goals.</p>

			<p>The JAD and the CCAO shall provide preliminary responses within 30 days with preliminary findings, recommend next steps to complete the analysis, and additional resources needed to expedite the process.</p> <p>Upon completion of a final report, there shall be a public hearing to present findings.</p> <p>The County shall put a marker down for an initial 25 million dollars in funding for programs that meet the minimum standards established by JAD and the CCAO for non-justice system alternatives. At least 5 million of those funds will be made available as grants to cities within Harris County that implement qualifying programs. The JAD shall establish standards and qualifications for the programs and guidelines for how to allocate grants to cities based on size and demonstrated need for such programs.</p> <p>Any programs recommended by the report and budgets for such programs will be implemented only after being approved by Commissioners Court.</p>
35	II.17	Supplemental Items	<p>The Justice Administration Department (JAD) shall study and report recommendations regarding the imposition of fines and fees associated with criminal offenses, the consequences of unpaid fines, the use and consequences of cash bail in pretrial detention, and disparate enforcement or impact of such practices on low-income individuals, racial and ethnic minorities, and any other vulnerable groups.</p> <p>The department shall report preliminary findings within 60 days. Once the report is complete, the findings shall be presented at a public hearing.</p>
35	II.18	Supplemental Items	<p>The Justice Administration Department (JAD) shall submit, in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office and any and all appropriate county departments, a bi-annual report on current racial disparities in our justice system. The initial report shall track disparities at various stages</p>

			<p>of the criminal justice process from patrol to case disposition, identify the root causes of those disparities and provide evidence-based recommendations to remedy the identified disparities. The JAD shall report back in 60 days with an update within 30 days if there are barriers to collecting this data and what resources would be necessary to address them. The JAD shall regularly collect, track, and report this information.</p> <p>Once the initial report is complete, there will be a public hearing at the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council meeting.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Motion by Judge Hidalgo, seconded by Commissioner Ellis, Unanimous Vote 5/0.</p> <p>The Justice Administration Department shall bring to Commissioners Court a Request for full-time employees and funding to support completion of current and future assignments.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner A. Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Ellis, Unanimous Vote 5/0.</p> <p>The Justice Administration Department and the Commissioners Court Analyst's Office shall analyze existing racial profiling data produced by law enforcement.</p>
35	II.20	Supplemental Items	<p>The Justice Administration Department shall work with Harris County law enforcement agencies that would include the Sheriff's Office, Constables' Offices, County Attorney's Office, District Attorney's Office and Fire Marshal's Office to develop a model use of force policy that would include implicit bias training and such agencies shall adopt and work with such agencies to develop training budgets for the implementation of said policy.</p>

35	II.21	Supplemental Items	Transmittal by Budget Management on behalf of the The CARES Act Committee to establish the Small Business Recovery Fund in the amount of \$30 million and that funding allocated for Precinct One businesses not exclude businesses located within the City of Houston.
35	II.22	Supplemental Items	Public Health Services is authorized up to 2.7 million dollars in funding as needed to continue to ready the non-congregate medical shelter at NRG facilities for COVID-19 epidemic response with the understanding the immediate spending is \$246,000 to have the shelter in ready-state.
35	II.27	Supplemental Items	No Action
35	II.28	Supplemental Items	Hold
35	IV.2	Executive Session	No Action