



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager

DATE: July 26, 2021

SUBJECT: Update Regarding Forensic Science and Emergency Communications

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Earlier this year, Council approved Ordinances [20210204-032](#) and [20210422-020](#) that authorized the City Manager to transfer the Forensic Science Division and Emergency Communications Division from the Austin Police Department (APD) and create separate departments. As described in the City Manager's proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 Budget, the Forensic Science Division and Emergency Communications Division, along with full funding for both divisions, are incorporated back into the Austin Police Department budget to fully comply with the State's new budget requirements. During FY2021-22, staff will continue to evaluate opportunities to meet Council's policy intent of the Ordinances while staying in compliance with [HB 1900](#).

Dr. Dana Kadavy serves as the Executive Director of the Forensic Science Division (a civilian position) and has accomplished a number of steps that position the Division to be transitioned to a separate organization if that can be accomplished within the legal framework established by State law. In order to increase the Division's objective forensic analysis independent from the law enforcement function, Dr. Kadavy will report to the Assistant City Manager over Safety for operational and administrative matters. She will also report to the Police Chief for matters related to maintaining Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) certification. Establishing Forensic Science as a separate entity will be evaluated during the development of the FY2022-2023 proposed budget. The transition of the Emergency Communications Division will also be evaluated during the same period.

The transition of the Emergency Communications Division would be a more complicated and lengthier process due to the number of interlocal and management control agreements with local, state and federal law enforcement partners; and the necessary technical changes to maintain CJIS certification as a separate entity from APD. Accordingly, Lt. Kenneth Murphy, who serves as the Emergency Communications Manager (a sworn position within APD), will continue

to report to the Police Chief for all operational and administrative matters. During FY2021-2022, I will work with the Police Chief and Lt. Murphy to develop a transition roadmap and cost estimate for separating the function of Emergency Communications from APD, with attention paid to compliance with HB 1900.

Leadership and staff remain committed to continue work on evaluating and implementing recommendations from the City-Community Reimagining Public Safety Task Force. Please contact me should you have any questions.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager  
Anne Morgan, Interim Deputy City Manager  
Deborah Thomas, Interim City Attorney  
Chief Joseph Chacon, Interim Austin Police Chief  
Ed Van Eenoo, Chief Financial Officer  
Dr. Dana Kadavy, Forensic Science Executive Director  
Lt. Kenneth Murphy, APD Emergency Communications