

A scenic view of the Pittsburgh skyline featuring the PPG Place building and other skyscrapers, with a bridge spanning the river in the foreground.

Downtown Safety Forum

August 20, 2026

8:30 am - 9:30 am

Today's Agenda

- Announcements
- DTAC Commander Christopher Juusola
- Bianca Bentzin City Attorney's Office
- Quarterly PID Unsheltered Count
- Upcoming Conferences and Events
- Open Q&A

Light Downtown Green!



PBR
GAMBLER
DAYS

PRESENTED BY
TECOVAS

AUG 21-23, 2026

AUSTIN, TX | MOODY CENTER



TAKE THE RIDE

ISSUES & EGGS

**NO WRONG DOOR:
BREAKING THE HOMELESSNESS &
MENTAL HEALTH CYCLE**

September 15, 2026 • 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
St. David's Episcopal Church

Commander
Christopher
Juusola

APD Downtown
Area Command





Downtown Area Command (DTAC): DAA Monthly Safety Forum

Commander Christopher Juusola

August 20, 2026

George – Incidents

Data from Open Data Portal

Count of Incidents

	Last 28 Days			Last 365 Days			
	Current: 28 Days	1 Yr Ago: 28 Days	% Change: 28 Days	Current: YTD	Current: 365 Days	1 Yr Ago: 365 Days	% Change: 365 Days
Violent Offenses							
Homicide (09A)	0	1	↓ -100% (-1)	2	3	5	↓ -40% (-2)
Rape	4	2	↑ 100% (2)	33	54	47	↑ 15% (7)
Aggravated Assault	7	15	↓ -53% (-8)	71	109	111	↓ -2% (-2)
Robbery	10	5	↑ 100% (5)	61	89	58	↑ 53% (31)
Total	21	23	↓ -8.70% (-2)	166	254	221	↑ 14.93% (33)
Strangulation	2	2	NC % (0)	8	13	20	↓ -35% (-7)
Family Violence (All Violent Offenses)	3	3	NC % (0)	14	31	30	↑ 3% (1)
Property / Society Offenses							
Larceny/Theft Offenses (including BOV)	75	127	↓ -41% (-52)	903	1,689	1,684	↑ 0.3% (5)
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	6	17	↓ -65% (-11)	81	148	162	↓ 9% (-14)
Motor Vehicle Theft	7	14	↓ -50% (-7)	72	137	140	↓ 2% (-3)
Weapon Law Violations	5	5	NC % (0)	92	137	142	↓ 4% (-5)
Total	93	163	↓ -42.94% (-70)	1,148	2,111	2,128	↓ 0.80% (-17)
Drug/Narcotic Offenses	140	86	↑ 63% (54)	1,038	1,606	1,011	↑ 59% (595)
Burglary of Vehicle Offenses							
Theft: from Motor Vehicle	9	20	↓ -55% (-11)	115	226	301	↓ -25% (-75)
Shooting Offenses							
Shooting Incidents	1	1	0% (0)	6	8	10	↓ -20% (-2)
Shooting Victims	1						

Avg Response Time by Priority

	Last 365 Days		
	Current: 365 Days	1 Yr Ago: 365 Days	% Change: 365 Days
0	00:04:50	00:04:42	↑ 00:00:07
1	00:07:24	00:07:15	↑ 00:00:09
2	00:15:23	00:17:40	↓ 00:02:16
3	00:43:00	00:47:01	↓ 00:04:01



Commander
C. Juusola



Current: 28 Days	7/19/2026 to 8/15/2026
1 Yr Ago: 28 Days	7/20/2025 to 8/16/2025
Current: YTD	1/1/2026 to 8/15/2026
Current: 365 Days	8/17/2025 to 8/15/2026
1 Yr Ago: 365 Days	8/18/2024 to 8/16/2025

Violent Crimes Past 28-Days

ARRESTS

SUN 7/19
Robbery by Assault
○ 500 Block E 6th St @ Before 0100
○ Warrant Arrest 7/19 @ 0046

Robbery by Assault
○ 708 E 6th St (Mala Vida) @ 0241

Robbery by Assault (TOT)
○ Cap Metro Bus (Guad/W 17th) @ 0648

MON 7/20
Agg Robbery Deadly Weapon
○ 200 W 6th St @ 2136
○ Weapon **Two Machetes**

TUE 7/21
Robbery by Threat (TOT)
○ 300 Block W 5th St @ 1157

Agg Assault Strangle / Suffocate (FV)
○ 20 N IH 35 (Holiday Inn) @ 2320

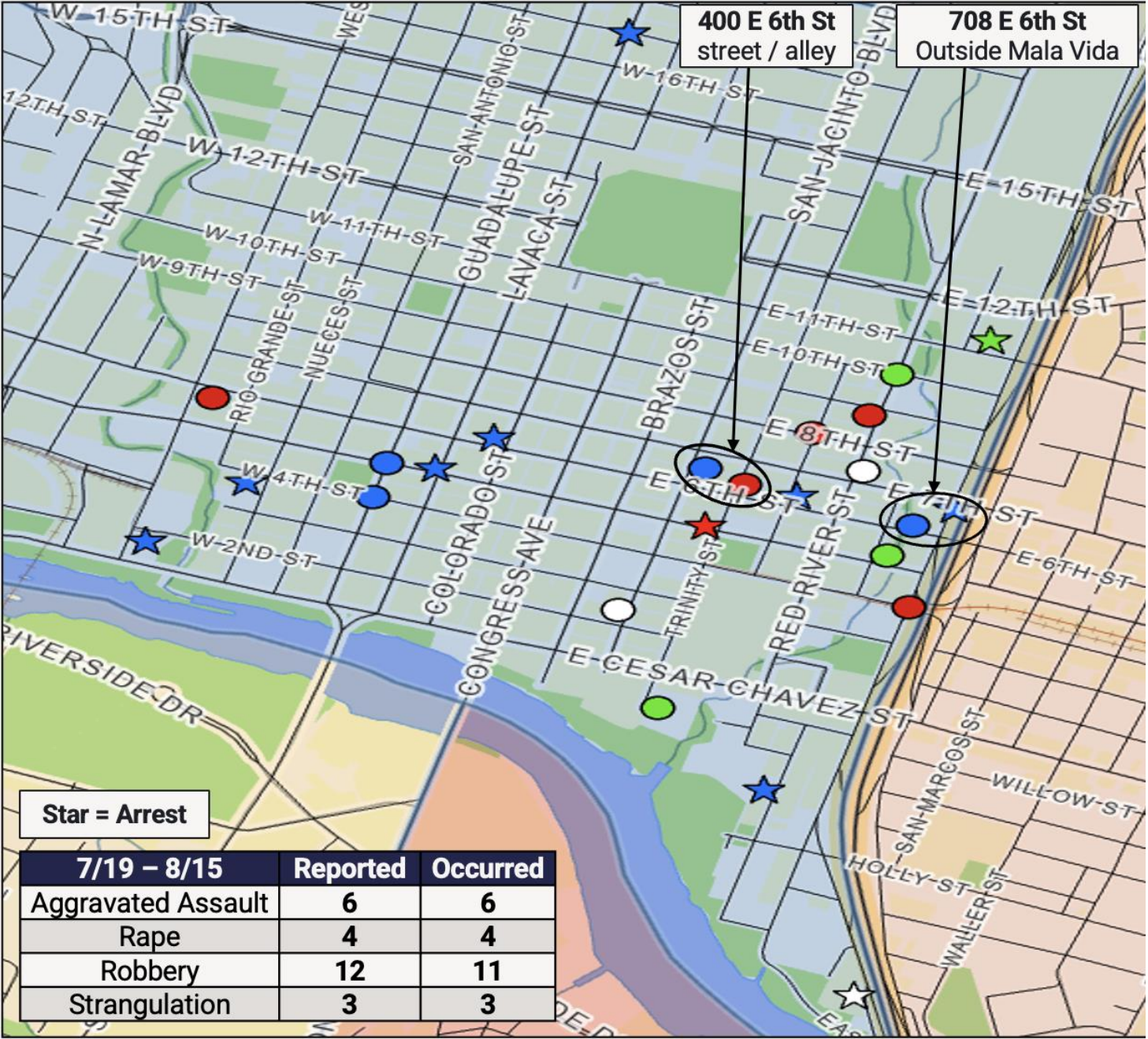
SAT 7/25
Agg Assault (Two Victims)
○ 504 Trinity (Copperhead) @ 2138
○ Weapon **Pocketknife**

SUN 7/26
Agg Robbery Deadly Weapon
○ 80 Rainey St @ 0124
○ Weapon **Firearm**

MON 7/27
Agg Sex Assault (FV)
○ 700 E 11th St (Alexan) @ 0553

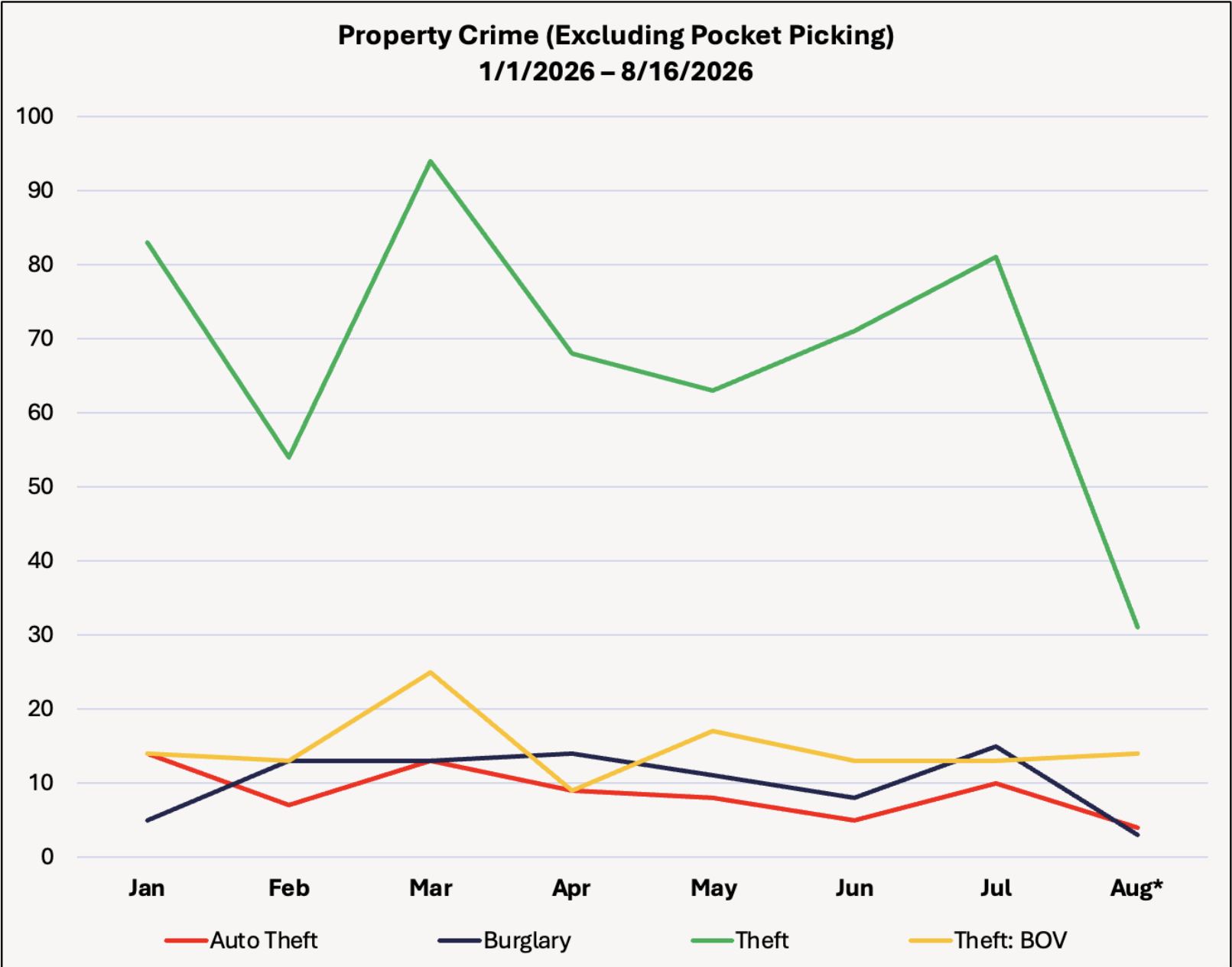
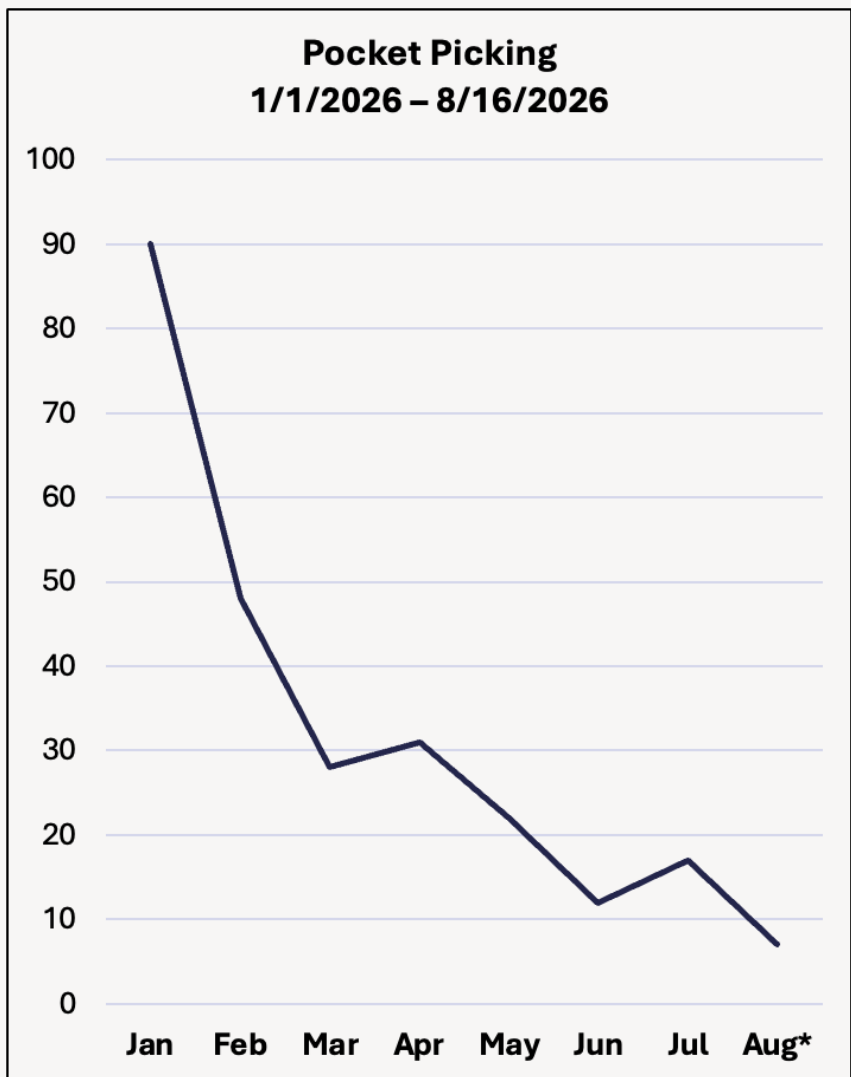
SUN 8/2
Agg Robbery Deadly Weapon (TOT)
○ Library Pedestrian Bridge @ 0950
○ Weapon **Knife**

WED 8/5
Robbery by Threat (Transient Arrest)
○ 360 Nueces (Royal Blue) @ 1345



● Aggravated Assault (no strangle) ○ Strangulation ● Robbery ● Rape

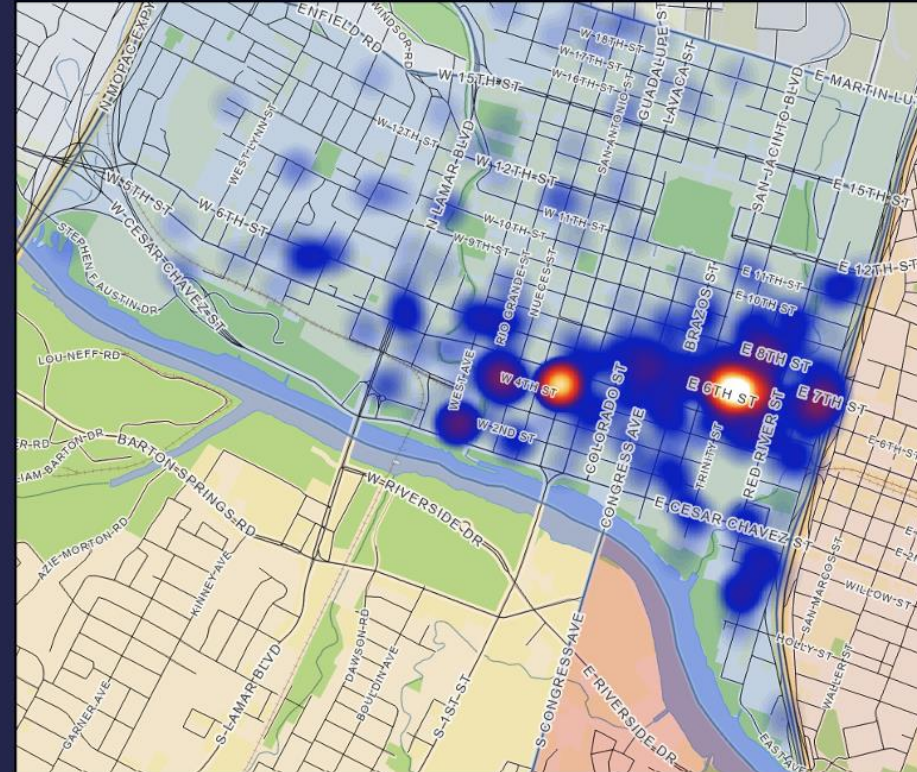
Property Crime 1/1 – 8/16 2026



*August 2026 is **NOT** a full month. 8/1 – 8/16

Hotspot Map (Commander Areas of Focus)

- Republic Square
 - Related to Austin Public Library
 - Related to Shoal Creek
- E 6th St/Neches
 - Related to Waller Creek
 - Related to E 6th St Alleys
- DARRT/POT INVOLVEMENT



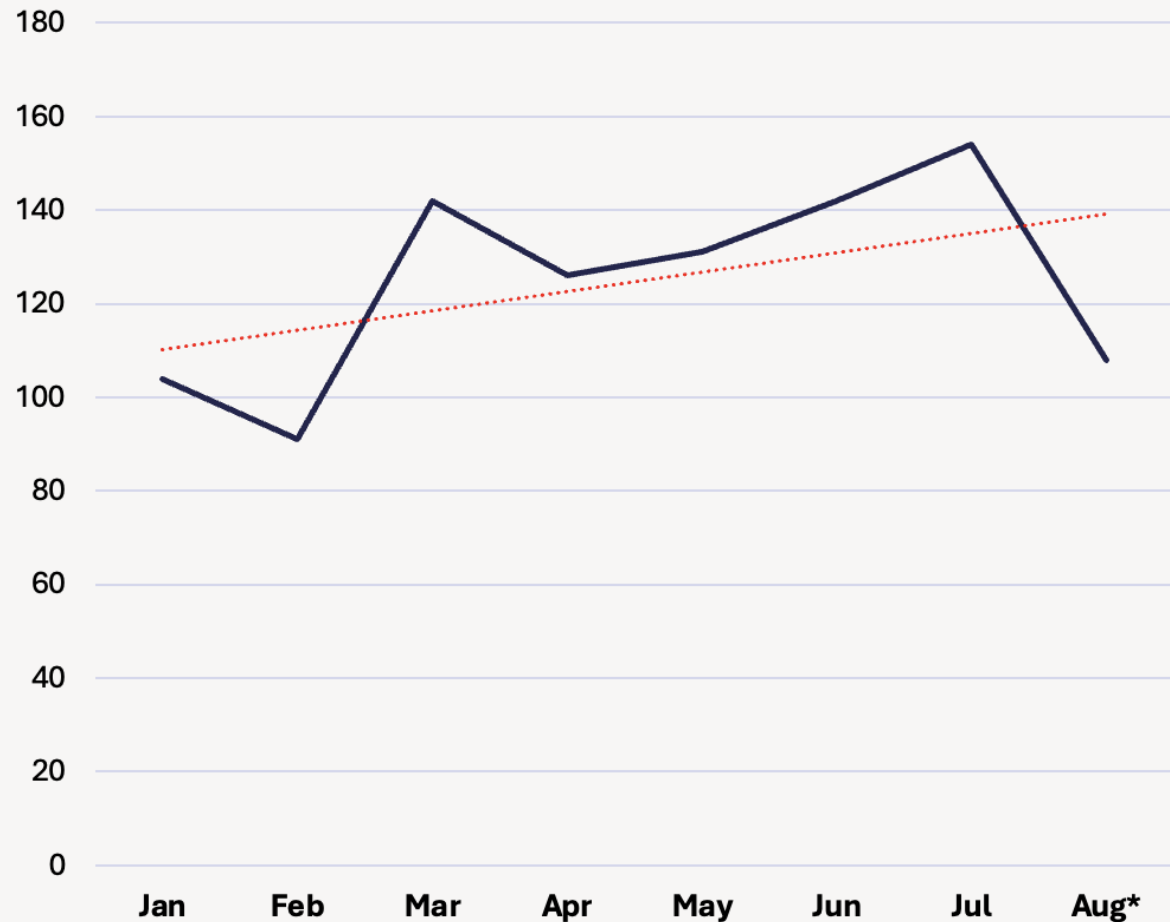
ADDRESSED THROUGH

PROACTIVE ENFORCEMENT **ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN**

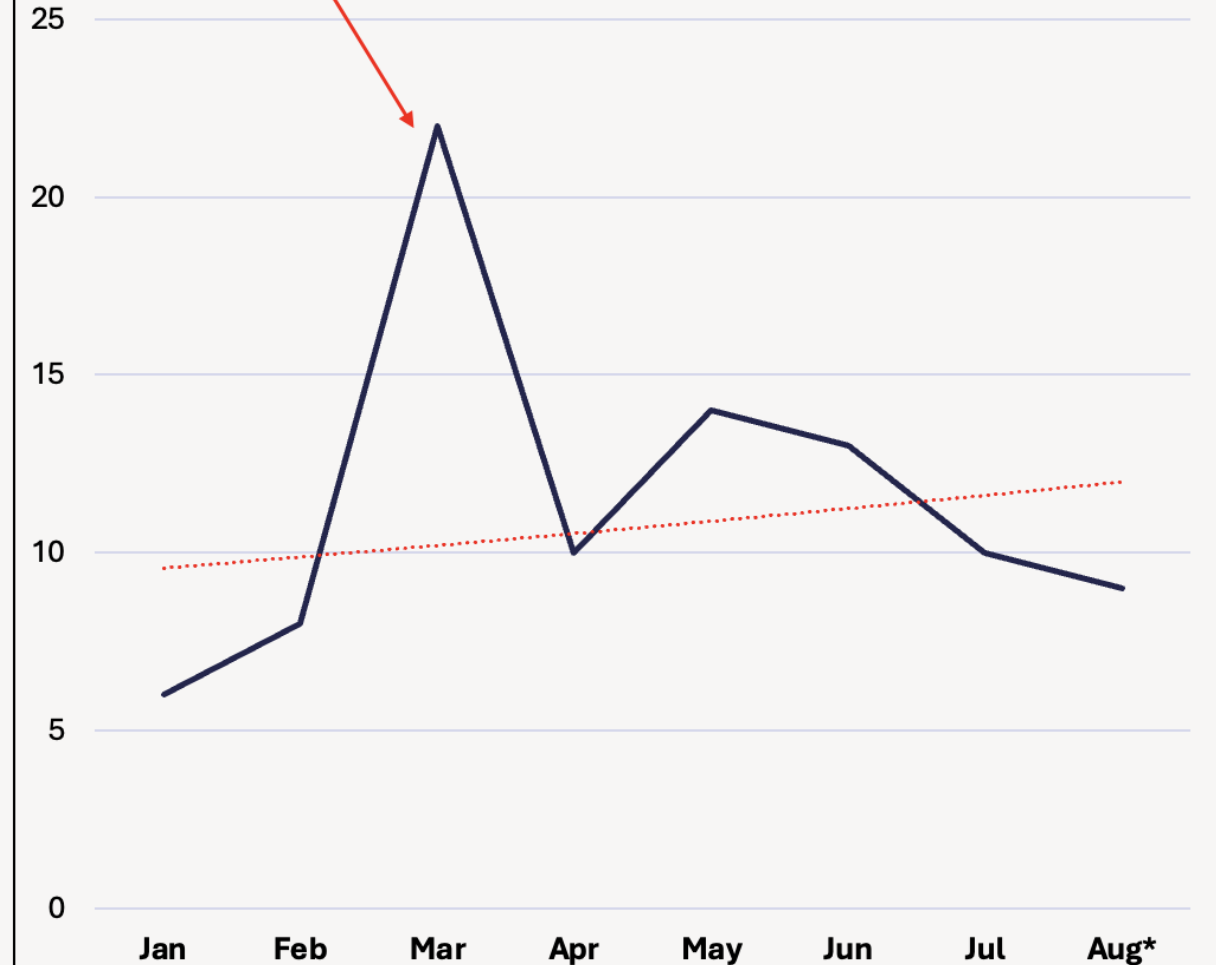
COMMUNITY/CITY PARTNERSHIPS

Guns / Drugs 1/1 – 8/16 2026

Narcotics Violations & Equipment Violations
1/1/2026 – 8/16/2026

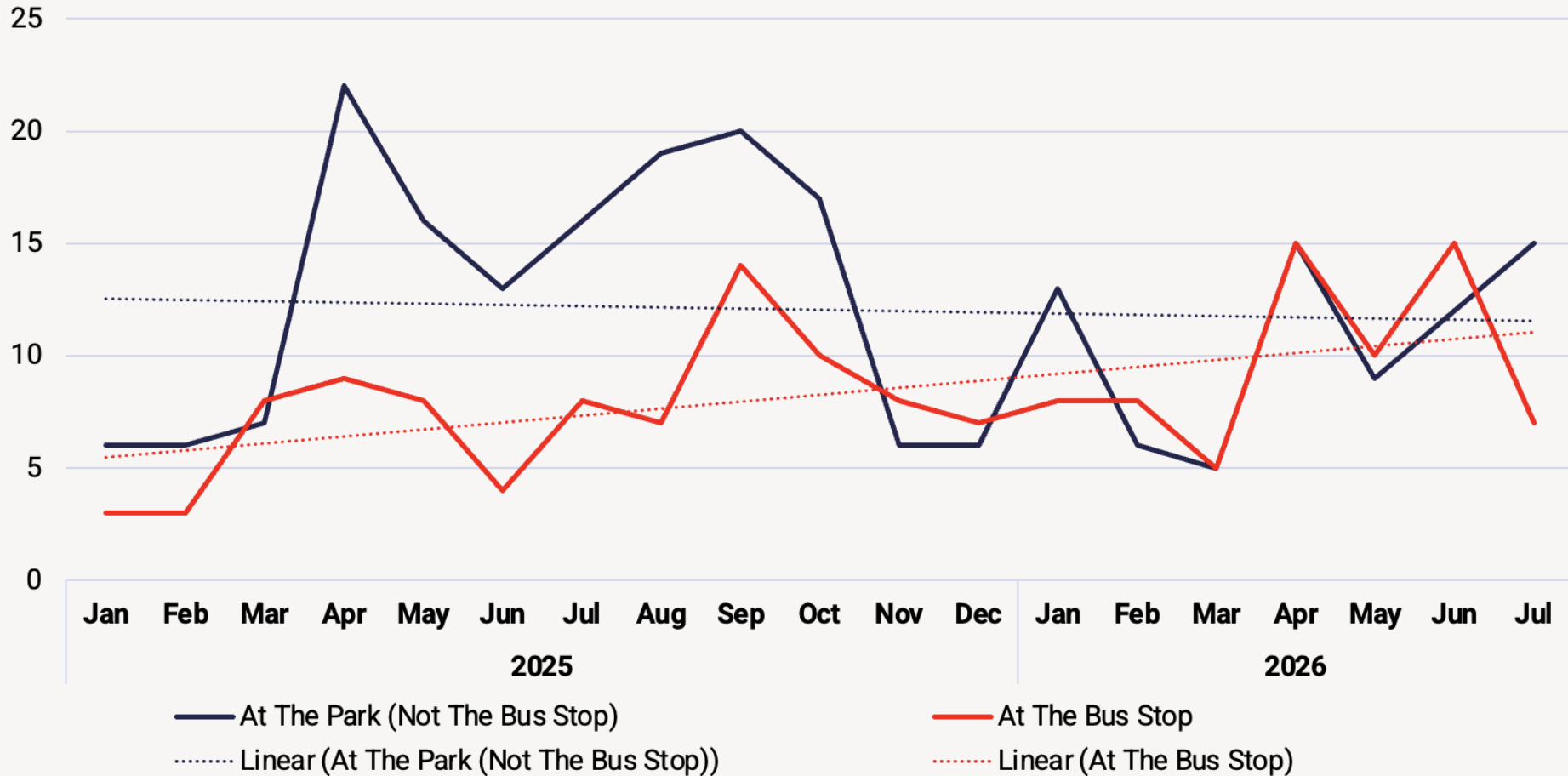


Weapon Law Violations



Republic Square 422 Guadalupe St

Reported Incidents at Republic Square Park (and the Bus Stop)
1/1/2025 – 7/23/2026

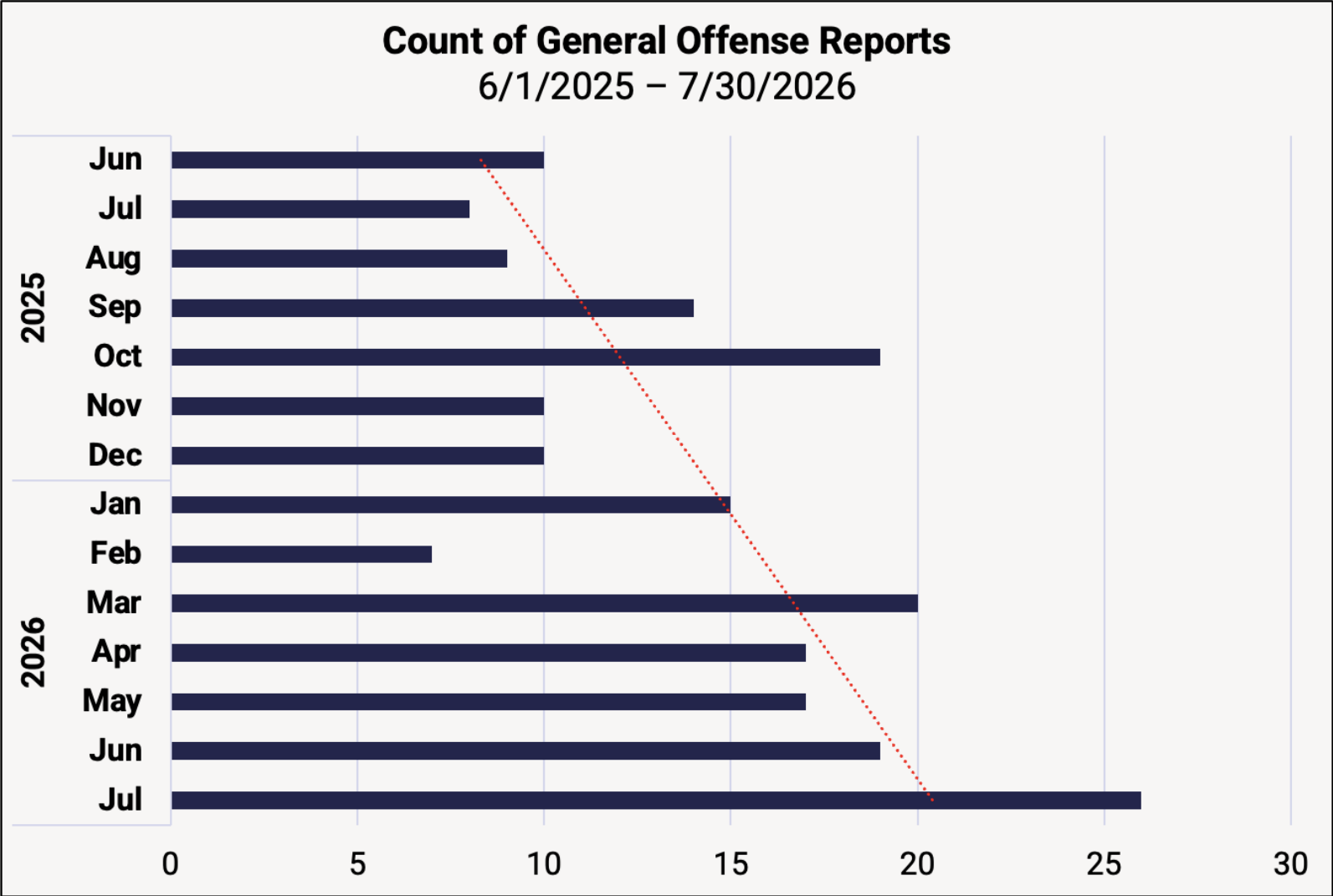


OVERALL...

The number of incidents that are *reported* at the Park (**not the Bus Stop**) has **slightly decreased**

The number of incidents that are *reported* at the Bus Stop has been on an **upward trend**

In the past two weeks, DTAC has conducted Directed Patrols at Republic Square Park approximately **12** out of the 14 days – resulting in a **92% proactivity rate** with reporting



Initiative began in June 2026

Since June 2026...

Reports for Drug Offenses have more than doubled month-to-month

Reports for Trespass have almost tripled month-to-month

June 2026: **48 Directed Patrols**

July 2026: **63 Directed Patrols**

August 2026 (so far): **22 Directed Patrols**

Highlight!

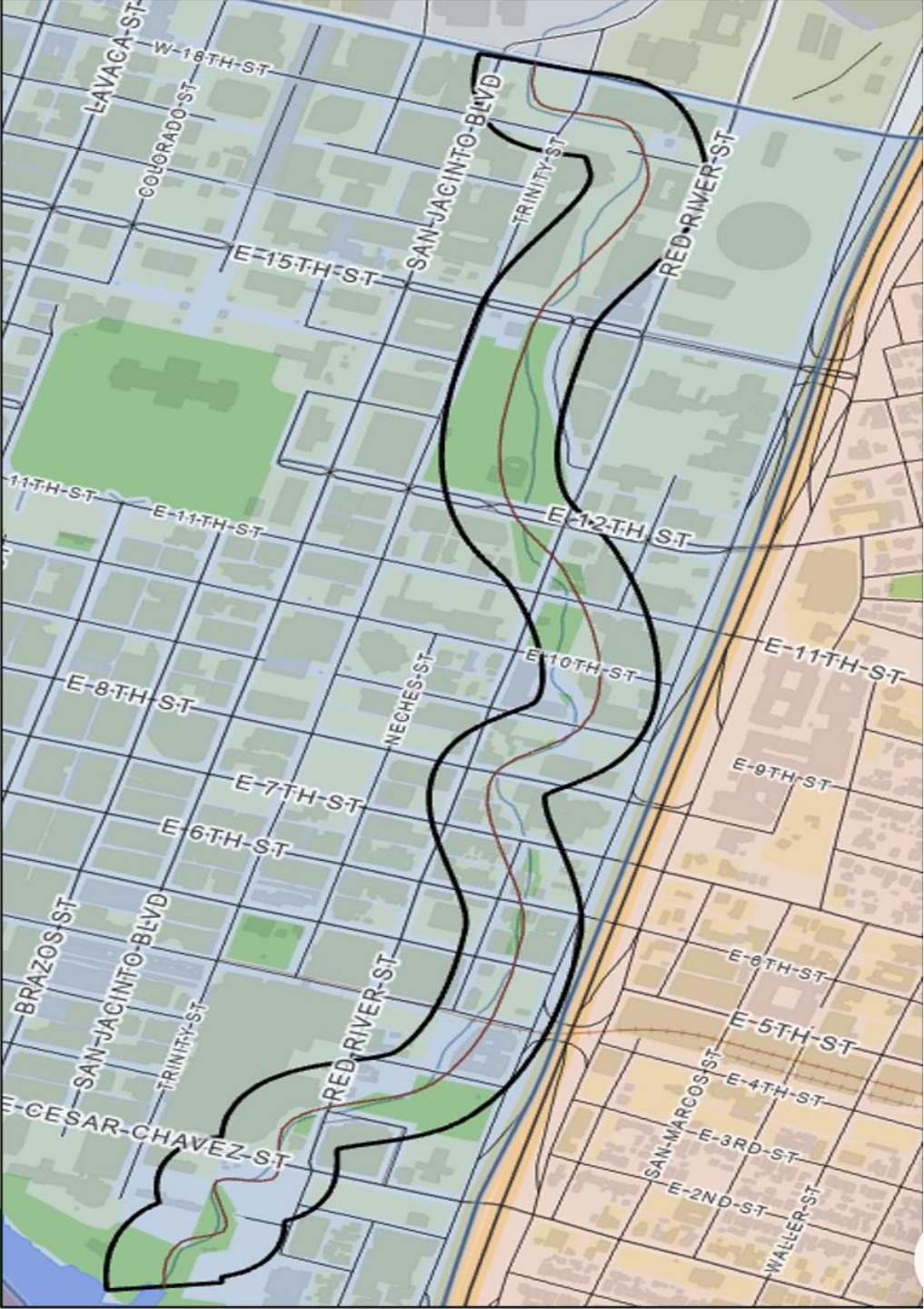
Officer McLeish (G500), while on a Directed Patrol at the Library on 7/13 arrested an unhoused male for two pieces of PDP and for being in possession of a stolen firearm.

Waller Creek

General Offense Reports, By Month 6/1/2025 – 7/8/2026



Calls For Service, By Month 6/1/2025 – 7/8/2026



Stakeholder Meetings

- 7/9- **Waller Creek:** Meeting with resident (request of D9 CM/Chief)
- 7/11- **W 2nd St/Shoal Creek:** City Strategy Follow-Up Meeting
- 7/13- **Austin Public Library:** Security Protocol Meeting
- 7/16- **Virtual (DTAC Wide):** DAA Monthly Safety Forum
- 7/20- **Austin Public Library:** City Strategy Involving Criminal Trespass Notices
- 7/22- **301 W Avenue (Independent HOA Virtual):** HOA Meeting About Shoal Creek
- 7/28- **Hyatt Regency:** Meeting with Hotel GMs
- 7/29- **301 Congress Ave:** Meeting with Building Managers
- 7/31- **Virtual:** Meeting with IGR about Republic Square/Bus Stop/Liquor Store
- 8/3- **Austin Public Library:** City Strategy for Criminal Trespass Notices (Follow-up Meeting)
- 8/5- **321 W 6th St:** Meeting with residential tower managers
- 8/11- **Virtual:** HLA Meeting on Unhoused Issues
- 8/12- **DTAC Wide (Planning)-** Great Streets Design Meeting
- 8/13- **96 Red River St (One Hotel)-** Meeting with Rainey GMs and Patrol LT Meeting/Tour

Current and Ongoing Major Projects

- **COMPLETED**

- Waller Creek

- **CURRENT**

- Central Library (and Surrounding Area) Safety
- Republic Square Safety
- E 6th St and Surrounding Parking Lots

- **FUTURE (PLANNING)**

- Rainey Street Traffic
- Alley Environmental Design

Downtown Events

- **PROTESTS**

- Continue to monitor ICE/OIS/Iran Protests

- **Upcoming**

- Pride Parade
- UT Home Games
- ACL Music Festival
- Holidays (Labor Day, Halloween, New Year's)
- 90th Regular Texas Legislative Session



Community Prosecution

**Bianca Bentzin
Chief Prosecutor/Division Chief
City Attorney's Office**

WHAT IS COMMUNITY- BASED PROSECUTION?

A proactive approach to improving the quality of life of Austin communities. With the assistance of City and other government departments, private entities, and community groups and stakeholders, we develop and execute long-term solutions to community problems.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY- BASED PROSECUTION?

- Proactive approach
 - Departure from reactive prosecution
 - Focus on problem solving
- Focus on quality-of-life issues
- Community driven
- Developing long-term solutions
- Work with local partners
- Varied enforcement methods
- Vertical prosecution

PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY PROSECUTION

1

Recognize the community's role in public safety

2

Engage in problem solving

3

Establish and maintain partnerships

4

Evaluate outcomes and/or activities

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Ask the community what their concerns are
 - Police and prosecutors can prioritize the community's needs
 - Builds trust and partnership
 - Creates value for both police and the community members
 - Imbeds prosecutors into communities to see and understand problems
- Priorities between neighborhoods may differ and shift over time

PRINCIPLES CONTD.

Recognize the community's role in public safety

- Engage community members
 - How can they assist us in putting a case together
 - Assist with APD's efforts to connect with the community

Engage in problem solving

- What are the priorities/concerns?
- Identify root of the problem
- Long-term strategies

PRINCIPLES CONTD.

Establish and maintain partnerships

- Educate/train LEO and other involved city departments
- Attend and present at community meetings.

Evaluate outcomes and/or activities

- Problem solving is not necessarily convictions
- Debrief after each project
- Get creative

COMMUNITY PROSECUTION OPTIONS

Pro-Active Problem Solving

- Work with property owners proactively to encourage voluntary compliance.
- Work with community groups and city departments proactively to identify problem areas/properties.

Nuisance Abatement

- Can provide immediate temporary or permanent injunctive relief.
- Abatement lawsuits in District Court to close a business or require repairs/remediation
- Already being used in Austin (ie. Downtown bars)

Prosecution

QUESTIONS?



Bianca Bentzin
City Attorney's Office
Chief Prosecutor/Division Chief



512-974-1157 (desk)



512-739-9665 (cell)

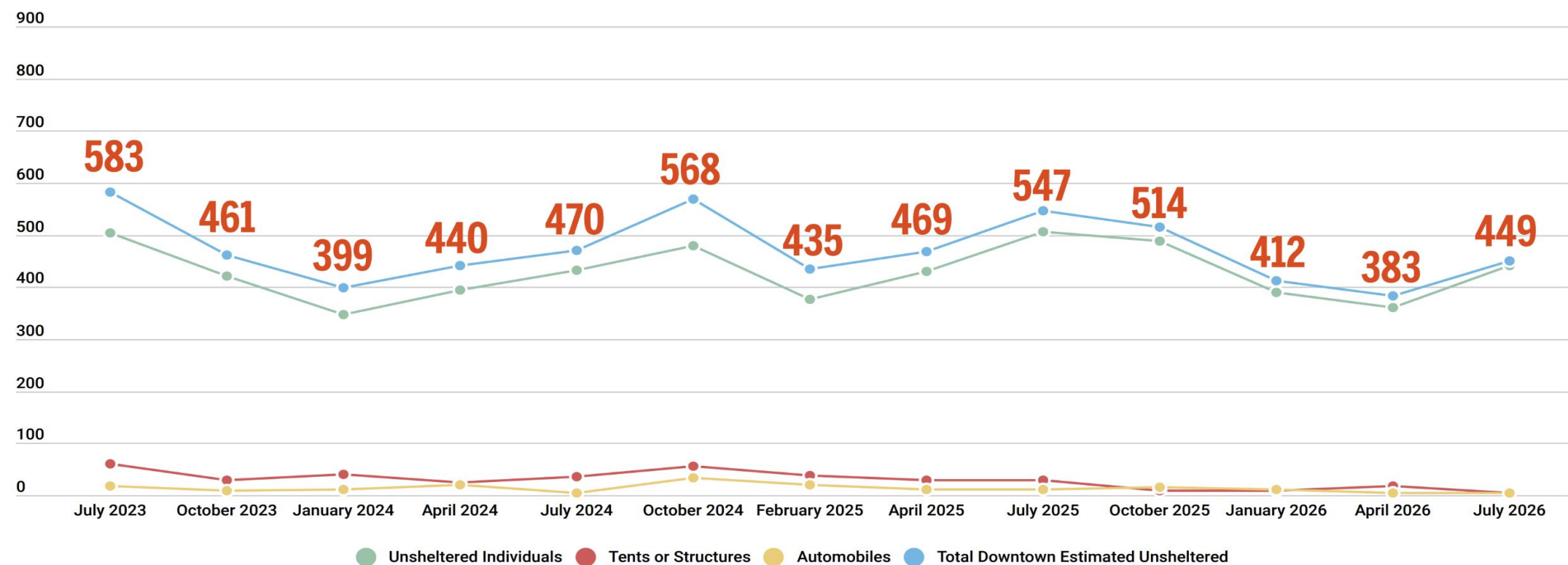


Bianca.bentzin@austintexas.gov

Quarterly Downtown PID Unsheltered Count

DOWN
AUSTINTOWN
ALLIANCE

Total Downtown Estimated Unsheltered Homeless



Source: Downtown Austin Alliance, July 2026

Upcoming Events

August

19-21 / Raintree Systems – TherapyCon @ JW Marriott (700 attendees)

21-23 / PBR Team Series – Gambler Days @ Moody Center

22 / Austin Pride Parade & Festival @ Fiesta Gardens

23 / Austin Area Quilt Guild 2026 QuiltFest (4,500 attendees)

23 / Austin Home Show (1,500 attendees)

29-30 / 2026 Le Garage Sale (3,400 attendees)

29-30 / 2026 Austin Train Show (1,500 attendees)

September

6-11 / Cursor – 2026 Sales Kick Off @ Fairmont Austin

12-17 / Forrester Research – 2026 Forum @ JW Marriott

12-16 / Euna Solutions – 2026 Eunaverse User Conference @ Hilton Austin

14-18 / Nuvia Dental Implant Center – 2026 Summit @ JW Marriott

19-25 / Rails Foundation – Rails World: Community User Event @ Hyatt Regency & The LINE

21-25 / American Bankers Association – 2026 Bank Marketing Conference @ Austin Marriott Downtown

22-26 / Association of Independent Mortgage Experts – 2026 FUSE @ JW Marriott

23-25 / PACS Group – Annual Meeting @ Fairmont Austin

Texas Longhorns Football

Sept 5: Texas State

Sept 12: Ohio State

Sept 19: UTSA

Open Q&A

**September Downtown Safety Forum: Thursday, September 17, 2026, at
8:30 AM**

**Featuring Rachid Sow, Founder & Executive Director Sow Family
Foundation**