



Travis County Commissioners Court Voting Session Agenda Request

Meeting Date: February 18, 2020

Agenda Language:

Consider and take appropriate action on an appointment to the Sobering Center Board of Directors.

Prepared By/Phone Number: Julie Wheeler, 854-4774

Elected/Appointed Official or Department Head: Julie Wheeler, IGR Officer

Commissioners Court Sponsor(s): Judge Eckhardt

Press Inquiries: Hector Nieto, PIO@traviscountytexas.gov or (512) 854-8740

Background/Summary of Request and Attachments:

Travis County and the City of Austin each make four appointments to the Sobering Center Board of Directors, and one additional joint appointment. Terms are for three years and appointees may only serve for a total of nine years. The Sobering Center is one of thirteen agencies subject to the Uniform Appointment Process (UAP).

One of the County's appointees, **Mr. William Brice**, resigned from the board effective on November 22, 2019. Mr. Brice's term expires on September 30, 2021. The selected candidate will take over this unexpired term.

Following Mr. Brice's resignation the Court issued a Call for and received 25 applications at the close of the application period. A screening committee that included Justice Planning and Health and Human Services reviewed the applications and narrowed the selection to three candidates. On February 11th, the Commissioners Court interviewed the following candidates:

- Lynn Sherman
- Paula Coopwood
- Kenneth Lambrecht

Attachments: N/A

Staff Recommendations:

IGR recommends that the Court appoint one of the three candidates interviewed to fill the unexpired term of William Brice on the Sobering Center Board of Directors. The term will run through September 30, 2021.

Issues and Opportunities:

The mission of the Sobering Center is to provide a safe environment for publicly intoxicated individuals to sober up and, when appropriate, initiate recovery. It aims to

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enhance public health and public safety by providing an alternative to the emergency room and jail.

The Sobering Center was created in June of 2016 through an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the Travis County Commissioners Court and the Austin City Council. Under the terms of the ILA, the Sobering Center is organized as a Local Government Corporation (LGC).

The Sobering Center is governed by a Board of Directors. The Commissioners and City Council each appoint four members, and share one joint appointee. In addition to these nine members, one representative from both the City and the County elected bodies serve as voting members of the Board. Five ex-officio members, who have no voting rights, are also part of the membership. An initial Board of Directors was appointed in September 2016.

Fiscal Impact and Source of Funding:

N/A

Required Authorizations:

Judge Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County Judge
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Roger Jefferies
County Executive, Justice Planning
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