



OFFICE OF POLICE OVERSIGHT

P.O. BOX 1088, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767
WWW.ATXPOLICEOVERSIGHT.ORG
POLICEOVERSIGHT@AUSTINTEXAS.GOV
PHONE: 512.974.9090 | TTY: 711 | FAX: 512.974.6306
COMPLAINT HOTLINE: 512-972-20PO

November 8, 2024

Lisa Davis, Chief of Police
Austin Police Department
715 E. 8th Street
Austin, TX 78701

RE: OPO Policy Recommendation to the Austin Police Department

Dear Chief Davis:

This memorandum provides feedback and recommendations from the Office of Police Oversight (OPO) for improving the Austin Police Department's (APD) General Orders.

The OPO has received several complaints involving the use of force when officers attempt to place arrested subjects in the back of standard four-door patrol vehicles. The OPO believes that using transport cargo vehicles in place of standard four-door patrol vehicles to transport arrestees exhibiting resistance can reduce the escalation of force. In addition to reducing the use of force incidents, this practice can increase officer safety and the safety of the arrested person and, in some incidents, reduce the need for additional charges for resisting arrest. This practice has been successfully implemented by various departments across the country. APD has an opportunity to establish this policy in alignment with nationwide best practices.

We look forward to addressing the items identified and improving policies to benefit the community and APD sworn personnel.

Sincerely,

Gail McCant, Director
Office of Police Oversight



New Policy Recommendation: Transport Vehicle

Recommendation #1: The Office of Police Oversight recommends that the Austin Police Department consider acquiring additional arrest transport vans, equipped with prisoner transport inserts, to transport arrestees who exhibit physical resistance during the transportation process.

This change may reduce the occurrence of force incidents, increase officer safety, and increase the safety of the arrested person(s).

