

## Policy Recommendation

**To:** Chief Lisa Davis, Austin Police Department

**From:** Director Gail McCant, Austin Police Oversight

**Date:** September 17, 2026

**Subject:** **APO Policy Recommendation: 306 Search and Seizure**

Dear Chief Davis:

This memorandum provides feedback and recommendations for improving the Austin Police Department's (APD) General Order (GO) **306 Search and Seizure**.

The specific policy recommended in this memorandum is as follows:

- **306.3 DEFINITIONS**

The policy analysis and subsequent recommendation examined APD officers' methods of searching an individual and what constitutes a strip search. The purpose of this recommendation is to improve APD's policies and practices by ensuring that strip searches are conducted consistently across the department. The recommendation to define a "strip search" in policy aligns with national policing best practices.<sup>1</sup>

APO believes this APD policy can be improved and will benefit the City of Austin, APD, and community members. APO is committed to improving APD's policies to increase transparency, accountability, and public trust in law enforcement.

Sincerely,

**Gail McCant** Digitally signed by Gail McCant  
Date: 2026.09.21 11:16:17 -05'00'

Gail McCant  
Director  
Austin Police Oversight

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<sup>1</sup> [Kansas City, Missouri Police Department Arrest Guidelines/Procedures](#)  
[New Orleans Police Department Search and Seizure Policy](#)  
[Houston Police Department Effecting Arrests and Searches General Order](#)

## Policy Recommendation

### 306 Search and Seizure

#### **Recommendation #1:**

**APO recommends that APD define exactly what constitutes a “strip search” in GO 306.3.**

To align with policing best practices, APD should clearly define strip searches and whether a strip search includes removing clothing, rearranging and/or manipulating clothing, and reaching inside clothing.

