



POLICY RECOMMENDATION

TO: Chief Lisa Davis, Austin Police Department
FROM: Director Gail McCant, Office of Police Oversight
DATE: September 29, 2025
SUBJECT: OPO Policy Recommendation: GO 400 OFFICER RESPONSE TO CALLS

Dear Chief Davis:

This memorandum provides feedback and recommendations for improving the Austin Police Department's (APD) General Order (GO) 400 OFFICER RESPONSE TO CALLS

The following policy recommendation from the Office of Police Oversight is in response to Internal Affairs case #2025-0204. The specific policy reviewed in this memorandum is as follows:

- 400.2.1 CODE 3 (EMERGENCY OPERATION)

The Office of Police Oversight (OPO) asserts that the primary duty of any emergency response is to safeguard human life. Speed and urgency should never take precedence over the obligation to ensure the safety of officers, motorists, and pedestrians. The following recommendation aligns with national policing best practices and roadway safety data.¹

The OPO trusts that this APD policy can be improved in a way that benefits community members, the City of Austin, and APD. We look forward to continuing to improve policies to enhance the Austin Police Department's transparency and accountability.

Sincerely,

Gail McCant
Director
Office of Police Oversight

¹ [NLERSP-Roadway-Safety-Culture-Issue-Brief_web-FINAL.pdf](#)



POLICY RECOMMENDATION

General Order # 400 OFFICER RESPONSE TO CALLS

Recommendation #1:

OPO recommends that APD officers shall not exceed the posted speed limit by more than 20 MPH when responding to a call under Code 3. Officers must reduce their speed if road, weather, or traffic conditions make higher speeds unsafe while operating Code 3.

The operation of emergency vehicles must be carried out with proper regard for the safety of all individuals, as required under Texas Transportation Code §546.005². Emergency response must be balanced with the public's right to safety, so that urgent action does not create unnecessary risk for others.

² [TRANSPORTATION CODE CHAPTER 546. OPERATION OF AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLES AND CERTAIN OTHER VEHICLES](#)