



8620 Burnet Road, Suite 475  
Austin, Texas 78757

512.323.0990  
Fax 512.323.2979  
[www.austinaptassoc.com](http://www.austinaptassoc.com)

To: Mayor and Austin City Council Members

From: Austin Apartment Association

Re: October 10, 2024, City Council Agenda Item 23 – Resolution for Strategies for Public Safety Recruitment

Date: October 9, 2024

Dear Mayor Watson and Council Members,

On behalf of the Austin Apartment Association (AAA), I write in strong support of Council Member Mackenzie Kelly's Resolution Item 23, which directs the City Manager to conduct a cost-benefit analysis to explore financial strategies for public safety personnel recruitment, including housing options for public safety cadet class participants.

The AAA is encouraged by the City of Austin's commitment to reviewing the housing challenges faced by our city's vital first responders. As the City considers new strategies to support these public safety personnel, we believe there is significant potential for innovative public-private partnerships.

In alignment with this effort, the Austin Apartment Association is excited to contribute through our forthcoming Apartner in Safety Alliance Program, set to launch in January 2025. This program will foster a closer relationship between first responders and the communities they protect by encouraging AAA member properties to voluntarily offer discounted housing options to cadets, law enforcement officers, paramedics, EMTs, and firefighters. With incentives such as waived application fees, reduced deposits, and flexible leasing options, participating properties will help make it more feasible for first responders to live within the communities they serve, strengthening bonds and ensuring quicker response times in emergencies.

As this resolution progresses, the Austin Apartment Association stands ready to collaborate with City staff and contribute to the forthcoming cost-benefit analysis. While the Apartner in Safety Alliance program has not yet launched, we are actively preparing for its implementation and look forward to seeing how it can complement the City's efforts.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical matter, and we look forward to working together to develop solutions that benefit both our first responders and the broader Austin community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Blair", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Emily Blair, CAE, Executive Vice President