



**Selena Xie, President**  
Austin EMS Association

October 2nd, 2024

Dear Austin City Council,

The Austin EMS Association supports Mackenzie Kelly's resolution to direct the City Manager to look at increasing cadet pay, a residency stipend, providing temporary cadet housing, and onsite childcare.

Of all the public safety agencies, only Austin Travis County EMS requires a specialized certification. Requiring EMT-B or your EMT-Paramedic means that we have a smaller labor pool that we share with other lower cost of living places like Hays County EMS and Williamson County EMS. Because of that, over 50% of our recruits are from outside of Texas. When these medics look at relocating, they get sticker shock from how expensive it is in Austin. Not only is it more expensive than anywhere else in Texas, it is also difficult for them to have the reserve to pay for moving costs, first and last month of rent, and a security deposit. Furthermore, the Association works directly with cadets who are struggling to afford their rent while on a limited cadet pay at \$22/hour with no ability to work overtime.

For these reasons, we support any measure that helps our cadets and decreases the high cost of housing.

Respectfully,

*Selena Xie*

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President, Austin EMS Association