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Austin Fire Fighters Commend City Leadership For Bold Step to
Keep Austin Safe by Passing 4 Fire Fighter Staffing Ordinance

Four fire fighter staffing ordinance ensures fast, safe fire responses.

AUSTIN, TEXAS – “Four Austin fire fighters on every fire engine and truck, that’s what the research shows is the safest and fastest way to protect the public on their worst day.” Austin Fire Fighters Association President Bob Nicks commented. “We’ve been leading the four firefighter charge for the fastest and safest fire service for years, passing this ordinance is a major win for every Austinite’s safety.”

Thursday evening, Austin city council approved an ordinance to keep citizens safe by making it the law for each fire truck in the city to have four professional fire fighters for every emergency call. Currently, every Austin fire engine, fire truck, and rescue truck is staffed with four Austin fire fighters at all times. According to federal accepted safety standards, four fire fighters is the absolute minimum staffing that can be considered safe and effective in a growing city like Austin.

Austin fire fighters are asking citizens to join them and thank Mayor Steve Adler and Councilmembers Ann Kitchen, Delia Garza, Pio Renteria, Greg Casar, Jimmy Flannigan, Leslie Pool, Ellen Troxclair, and Katie Tovo for their support, work, and votes to pass the 4 fire fighter safe staffing ordinance for Austin. Fire fighters further applaud the leadership of City Manager Spencer Cronk and our new Fire Chief Joel Baker for his staunch support of 4-person staffing.

Nicks added, “The vote by City Council to make the four fire fighter minimum the law in Austin ensures that we can provide the citizens we serve with the level of service they expect and deserve. We challenge other city governments to follow suite and hold firefighter and citizen safety as the highest priority”

The Austin Fire Fighters Association is affiliated with the International Association of Fire Fighters and has been committed to working with City Council, community leaders, and stakeholders to ensure a safe, fast, and effective level of fire protection with a minimum of four firefighters on every fire truck since the early 1990’s. Austinites have been protected by four firefighter staffing since 2012. The four fire fighter safe staffing ordinance is 20181213-045 and will become effective on December 24, 2018.

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