


From: Hassan, Yasmeen Yasmeen.Hassan@austintexas.gov 
Subject: RE: Media Request
Date: February 15, 2023 at 4:42 PM
To: Ken Martin ken@theaustinbulldog.org
Cc: Media media@austintexas.gov



Hey Ken,

So sorry for the delay. It's been a busy day! Here's what I found out for you.

The short answer is no, ATXN does not televise all news conferences taking place at City Hall. Our standard practice is to determine if a news conference is considered City-sponsored or non-City sponsored. This is the criteria used to determine that:

City-sponsored News Conference:

- A news conference initiated by a City of Austin department where at least one City employee is participating in their City capacity.
- A news conference initiated by a City Council office for the purposes of addressing a posted item on an agenda or a current or proposed City of Austin policy.

Non-City - sponsored News Conference:

- A news conference planned in partnership with a Council Office and an outside entity (e.g. non-profit, advocacy group, neighborhood association) that does not meet either of the criteria for a City-sponsored news conference above.
- A news conference initiated by an outside entity (e.g. non-profit, advocacy group, neighborhood association) with no connection to a Council office or City department.

Elected officials are required to request the Communications and Public information Office (CPIO) provide ATXN support to televise/ stream a news conference. ATXN staff would not setup City equipment or use City staff for a Mayor/ Council initiated news conference without consulting with the communications staff in the office of the elected official. City resources and equipment may not be used for election campaigning.

While we are not in a position to comment on or provide details about previous news conferences, we are able to elaborate on how the process works. In your example, if the Mayor or a Council Member issues a press advisory with the purpose to give remarks about a city election, CPIO staff would reach out to their communications staff to determine if they are requesting ATXN support. If yes, we would determine if the content of the news conference will include just general information about the election or will it include electioneering or endorsement of any candidate/ proposition on the ballot. If the news conference is going to include electioneering or endorsement of a candidate/proposition, CPIO staff would inform the communications staff of the elected official that ATXN cannot provide any support to televise or stream the news conference.

Yasmeen Hassan
Media Relations Senior Specialist
City of Austin – Communication and Public Information Office
Media Line: 512-974-2220 | Mobile: 737-443-9550

Email: yasmeen.hassan@austintexas.gov



From: Ken Martin <ken@theaustinbulldog.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 5:21 PM
To: Hassan, Yasmeen <Yasmeen.Hassan@austintexas.gov>
Subject: Re: Media Request

*** External Email - Exercise Caution ***

Thank you.

Ken

Ken Martin
Founder, Editor & Publisher
The Austin Bulldog



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On Feb 14, 2023, at 5:12 PM, Hassan, Yasmeen <Yasmeen.Hassan@austintexas.gov> wrote:

Hey Ken,

I'm working on this for you and will get back to you tomorrow!

Yasmeen Hassan

Media Relations Senior Specialist
City of Austin – Communication and Public Information Office
Media Line: 512-974-2220 | Mobile: 737-443-9550
Email: yasmeen.hassan@austintexas.gov

<image001.jpg>

From: Ken Martin <ken@theaustinbulldog.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 1:23 PM
To: Media <media@austintexas.gov>
Subject: Media Request

*** External Email - Exercise Caution ***

Good Afternoon,

I'm writing to ask a question about the City of Austin's policies, practices, and procedures for the use of ATXN equipment and personnel.

If an Austin mayor issues a press advisory and tells staff that the purpose is for him to give remarks about a city election, is that a situation in which ATXN would routinely set up cameras for a video of the event?

In other words, are press conferences held at city hall always covered by ATXN?

I would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

Ken

Ken Martin
Founder, Editor & Publisher
The Austin Bulldog

<image002.jpg>

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