



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 4, 2013**

The Public Safety Commission convened in a regular meeting on Monday, February 4, 2013 at City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Michael Lauderdale, called the Board Meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Kim Rossmo
Kent Anschutz
Sam Holt
Michael Lauderdale
Michael Levy (present beginning at 4:05)
Reynaldo Moreno
Ramey Ko

Board Members not in Attendance:

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. The minutes for the regular meeting on 1/07/2013 were approved on Commissioner Holt's motion, Commissioner Ko's second and a 6-0 vote with Commissioner Levy not present.

2. Citizen Communications

No citizens signed up to speak.

3. Discussion and Possible Action Items

- a. Overview of the State of Mental Health Services in Austin
This matter was taken up third under Discussion and Possible Action Items
ATCIC Chief Operations Officer Dawn Handley, ATCIC Director of Practice Management Andres Guariguata, Dr. Christopher Ziebell of Brackenridge Hospital, Travis County Judge Nancy Hohengarten, Travis County Mental Health Public Defender Officer Director Jeanette Kinard and Travis County Prosecutor Michelle Hallee provided an overview of existing behavioral and criminal justice services for individuals with mental health conditions, mental health population demographics, pilot programs, plans for future initiatives and integration, funding sources, the collaboration between law enforcement, the criminal justice system and mental health service providers, service gaps and current and

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future efforts to address unmet needs. Speakers responded to Commission questions and comments regarding the fragmentation of services, the actual number and origin of homeless individuals in Austin, and the impact of government policies and decisions.

b. Continued Discussion on EMS Issues

This item was not taken up due to time constraints. However Chief Shamard did submit a handout with updates on EMS to satisfy the Commission's request.

c. Presentation of Scope of Work and Goals for Proposed EMS Audit

This matter was taken up second under Discussion and Possible Action Items

Commissioner Levy provided the City Auditor with suggestions about the proposed EMS audit, specifying that the audit should be an unbiased study of operational and medical issues rather than a financial review. The Auditor voiced concerns about a full departmental audit and advised a Risk Assessment instead to begin with. Commissioner Rossmo requested clarification about the next steps and reiterated that the Public Safety Commission would like an opportunity to review the proposal if it requires the City to engage an outside consultant in the audit process.

d. Presentation of 2012 Traffic Fatality Data and Initiative Overview

This item was not taken up due to time constraints.

e. Proposed Costs for 24-hour APD Coverage of Hike and Bike Trails

This matter was taken up first under Discussion and Possible Action Items

APD Chief of Staff David Carter presented statistics on crime occurring in and around City of Austin parks and along hike and bike trails, recent crimes connected with hike and bike paths, the proactive approach and proposed costs for 24-hour APD coverage of trails, the analytical tools needed for APD to evaluate and respond to public safety issues that occur from policy changes and responded to Commissioner's questions and comments on the proposal to open three hike and bike trails and the city's existing park curfew ordinance. Commissioner Rossmo moved to recommend that the Austin City Council provide the Austin Police Department with the necessary and requisite resources to analyze changes in policy and laws. Commission Ko seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

f. Commission Recommendation to City Council to Reduce Gun Violence

Commissioner Anschutz began with introductory remarks about guns, gun violence and related laws before proposing recommendation language. Commissioner Ko and Commissioner Rossmo each introduced friendly amendments that Commissioner Anschutz accepted. Three citizens signed up to speak in favor of the item: Adrian Moore, Frances Schenkkan and John Woods. Mr. Moore spoke about the importance of violence prevention, particularly among youth and his work with the Council on At Risk Youth (CARY). Time did not permit Ms. Schenkkan and Mr. Woods to speak. Chair Lauderdale called the question on the motion as stated and amended. The recommendation passed unanimously.

4. Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items

Continued Discussion on Proposed EMS Audit with Comments from Tony Marquardt of the EMS Employee's Association

Follow Up on the State of Mental Health Services (Date TBD)

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5. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Moreno, seconded by Commissioner Rossmo. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

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