



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 6, 2013**

The Public Safety Commission convened in a regular meeting on Monday, May 6, 2013 at City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Michael Lauderdale, called the Board Meeting to order at 4:09 PM.

Board Members in Attendance:

Kim Rossmo
Michael Lauderdale
Michael Levy
Reynaldo Moreno
Kent Anschutz

Board Members not in Attendance:

Ramey Ko
Sam Holt

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. The minutes for the regular meeting on 3/04/2013 were approved on Commissioner Moreno's motion, Commissioner Levy's second and a 5-0 vote with Commissioners Holt and Ko not present.

2. Citizen Communications

Adrian Moore spoke about school shootings and the need to prevent them and invited the Public Safety Commissioners to an upcoming CARY event. He also responded to Chair Lauderdale's question on CARY's position on campus-carry gun legislation.

Mary Arnett of CLASP spoke about Council Member's feedback to the APD budget forecast, the APD 2:1,000 ratio, officer responsibilities, and department metrics. Chair Lauderdale requested that Ms. Arnett attend the June PSC meeting if possible at which time the APD forecast will be taken up as an agenda item.

Susan Reed, also representing CLASP, spoke about her support of the APD forecast requests and the value of community policing. Chair Lauderdale requested that Ms. Reed attend the June PSC meeting if possible at which time the APD forecast will be taken up as an agenda item.

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Tony Marquardt, President of the Austin/Travis County EMS Association, urged the Public Safety Commission to look at larger issues affecting EMS including lagging resources in some areas and the need for more in high volume call regions.

3. Discussion and Possible Action Items

a. Discussion on Wildfire-Related Matters

Austin Fire Department Assistant Director Jim Linardos provided the Commission with an update on the AFD Wildland Division and highlighted the division's priorities to restore and maintain landscapes, to sustain fire-adapted communities, and maximize wildfire response capabilities and processes. He also briefed Commissioners on wildfire characteristics including with a computer fire model demonstration, wildfire prevention and response preparation plans and needs, Austin's vulnerability to wildfires, and Wildfire Division staffing plans and partnerships. Chief Linardos and Deborah Blackburn of Bowman Consulting responded to questions about the contractual scope for the community wildfire protection plan and the consultant's qualifications. Carl Schwope of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service addressed the growth of herbaceous vegetation. Austin Firefighters Association President, Bob Nicks, affirmed Commissioner Levy's concerns about the risks associated with Austin Water Utility and PARD conducting prescribed burns. Chief Linardos also touched on the stakeholder process required to form the CWPP and later on the ecological conditions in California along with President Nicks. There was discussion between President Nicks, Commissioner Moreno, and Chief Evans regarding the staffing logistics for the AFD Wildfire Division, and AFD presence at prescribed burns. Commissioner Rossmo and Chief Linardos spoke about the relationship between insurance companies and wildfire risks and damage and possible partnerships for resource sharing. Justice Jones of the Texas A&M Forest Service, Carl Schwope and Chief Linardos spoke about the process of and challenges associated with acquiring aviation resources, the needs associated with managing and utilizing air resources to respond to wildfires and AFD plans for resource coordination. Chair Lauderdale closed with comments about the expediency of the AFD Wildland Division development, Austin Water Utility and PARD involvement in prescribed burns and fuel mitigation matters as they relate to making recommendations to Mayor & Council.

b. Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Departmental Budget Presentation by Austin Fire Department

Chief Harry Evans spoke about the Fire Department's FY14 unmet service needs. AFD Division Chief Brian Tanzola addressed the justification for FY14 unmet needs including the necessity of additional building inspectors to accommodate Austin growth. AFD Assistant Director Dr. Ronnelle Paulsen responded to Chair Lauderdale inquiry about funding for AFD's unmet needs and revenues gained through AFD services. Commissioner Anschutz echoed Chair Lauderdale's comments about growth and the cost of development. AFD Assistant Director Dr. Ronnelle Paulsen responded to comments from Commissioner Levy about the impact of fee waivers on city services. Commissioner Levy also requested that APD address overtime funds and the impact of fee waivers on the department in their presentation. Additionally Chief Evans reviewed priority unmet service needs to facilitate the department's four person staffing goal, to provide adequate administrative, IT and payroll support, to continue work on wildfire prevention and mitigation initiatives, and to

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grow research and planning capabilities to detect and affect trends. Commissioner Moreno raised questions about fire deaths, community outreach and the AFD retirement outlook. Chief Evans discussed Chief Kerr's goals to install a functioning smoke alarm in every Austin home and to bring fire deaths down to zero. He also responded to comments about community outreach needs, retirement forecasts and other longer term projects.

c. **EMS Issues Related to Civil Service Changes, Vacancy Rates, EMS Core City Station Expansion, Travis County Participation and Fire Department Coordination**

Chief Shamard briefed Commissioners on EMS compliance with state service rule, the current labor contract negotiation, departmental implementation efforts for testing and promotions, and development of an EMS Office of Professional Standards. He also spoke about current vacancies and responded to questions about the definition of a vacancy, the process of filling them and the current staffing model and potential for promotion. Chief Shamard and Commissioner Levy discussed EMS performance indicators, EMS staff moral and attitudes, core city expansion, and audit recommendations. Commissioner Rossmo raised the idea of a survey to measure staff attitudes about departmental processes and ideas and the importance of qualitative data and feedback from EMS staff. President of the Austin/Travis County EMS Association, Tony Marquardt, addressed staffing, common staffing practices and the need for promotional opportunities. He again later urged the Commission to consider the broader issues affecting EMS. Commissioner Levy concluded his comments with a notice that he will be requesting in the future that the Commission consider an examination to consolidate the Austin Fire Department and Austin/Travis County EMS.

5. Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items

Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Departmental Budget Presentation by Emergency Medical Services
Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Departmental Budget Presentation by Austin Police Department

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Moreno, seconded by Commissioner Anschutz. Meeting adjourned at 6:04 PM.

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