



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**  
*Monday, December 1, 2014*

**The Public Safety Commission convened a regular meeting on Monday, December 1, 2014 at City Hall, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.**

**Chair Kim Rossmo called the Commission Meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.**

**Commission Members in Attendance:**

Dr. Kim Rossmo, Chair  
Sam Holt, Vice-Chair  
Michael Levy, Vice-Chair  
Dr. Michael Lauderdale  
Reynaldo Moreno  
Rebecca Webber

**Commission Members not in Attendance:**

Kent Anschutz

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the regular meeting on 11/03/14 were approved on Commissioner Lauderdale's motion, Vice-Chair Holt's second and a vote of 6-0, with Commissioner Anschutz not in attendance.

**2. Citizen Communications**

- Mr. Tony Marquardt, President of the Austin-Travis County EMS Association: Spoke in follow-up to Agenda Item 3(b) of the November 3, 2014 meeting regarding Ebola and other infectious disease readiness and preparedness planning efforts.

**Additional Item (Item not on the Agenda)**

- Chair Rossmo asked AFD Chief of Staff Harry Evans to provide a status update on the impact of drought conditions to public safety. Chief Evans explained that the intended speaker, Laura Huffman, Director of the Texas Nature Conservancy, was unavailable to present at the December meeting, but proposed rescheduling her for the January

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meeting. Chair Rossmo indicated this would be acceptable, but urged this item be heard at the earliest opportunity.

- Chair Rossmo announced to the Commission that Chief Evans was soon retiring and that this would be his final meeting, but that his duties in working with the Commission would be continued by AFD Assistant Chief Brian Tanzola.
- APD Assistant Chief Brian Manley was asked by Chair Rossmo to provide an update on the active shooter incident which occurred in downtown Austin on November 28, 2014. Chief Manley provided a brief overview of the buildings and sites targeted, weaponry used, and general sequence of events. Chief Manley noted the investigation is still ongoing, but that all evidence thus far indicated it was an isolated incident with the individual acting alone.

### 3. Discussion and Possible Action Items

#### *a. Overview of External Forces Impacting APD Staffing*

- DEA Resident Agent Gregory Thrash provided an update on conditions at the Mexican border related to cartel drug trafficking, how those conditions impact the Greater Austin community, and the DEA's role in working collectively with local jurisdictions to thwart drug trafficking efforts through Central Texas. Part of this presentation included a description of the South Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program, which includes Travis County, and its relation to the larger Southwest Border HIDTA.
- Agent Thrash also described some of the challenges currently facing federal, state and local agencies in addressing drug trafficking problems, including staffing resources.
- Commissioners followed up with a brief question and answer (Q/A) period.

#### *b. Austin Regional Intelligence Center (ARIC) Update*

- Chair Rossmo opened by noting that Commissioner Lauderdale initially requested the item in response to an article published in the Austin Chronicle on August 29, 2014 (later clarified as August 28, 2014) regarding mission creep by the agency [ARIC].
- This item was first placed on the September 12, 2014 agenda, but was postponed because the ARIC Privacy Policy Advisory Committee (Committee) had not yet met. The item was rescheduled for the December agenda, after the Committee had an opportunity to meet on October 2, 2014.
- Greg Foster, Austin Regional Intelligence Center Community Advocate and member of the ARIC Privacy Policy Advisory Committee, presented on the committee's October meeting. He described what the committee reviewed and discussed with ARIC staff members regarding the Austin Chronicle article and subsequent domestic extremism documents. Mr. Foster also spoke to the ARIC oversight rule and the Public Safety Commission's external auditing responsibilities. Lastly, Mr. Foster provided some final observations, noting he was impressed with ARIC and APD staff members, crediting them with increased transparency efforts and responsiveness to open records requests.
- APD Commander Darryl Jamail followed up briefly to Mr. Foster's comments about the domestic extremism documents, and described efforts by ARIC to improve

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documentation standards with regard to information that is entered, or not entered, into the ARIC database.

- APD Lieutenant Joseph Chacon spoke in more detail about the ARIC's privacy practices, noting that ARIC is the first center in the country with an approved privacy policy in place before the center's opening. Lt. Chacon also spoke to measures being taken by ARIC to safeguard privacy and preserve civil rights and liberties. Lt. Chacon further described the internal and external auditing practices and measures being taken to ensure compliance with *28 Code of Federal Regulations Part 23* (28 CFR Part 23).
- Commissioners followed up with a brief question and answer (Q/A) period.
- Potential Action or Requests Resulting from Q/A:
  - The Commission requested a presentation from APD documenting cases that had been successfully adjudicated as a result of ARIC (ARIC success stories).
  - APD also agreed to prepare a presentation, or briefing, of external peer-to-peer audits that had been performed. This presentation would be provided in tandem to the abovementioned "success stories" presentation, shortly after the New Year.
  - Future external audit briefings would be presented biannually (every two years).

#### 4. Discussion Regarding Potential Future Agenda Items

- Vice-Chair Levy: Requested presentation by the Medical Director at the next meeting on dual response protocols, specifically dual response by AFD and EMS on medical calls.
- Chair Rossmo: Requested the presentation on impact of drought conditions to public safety be rescheduled for the January meeting.
- Commissioner Moreno: Requested that the Commission revisit collective practices by the Austin Water Utility and AFD Wildland Fire Division. Chair Rossmo asked that an item only be placed on the agenda if there was new information or new presenters.
- Commissioner Moreno: Chief Evans reminded Commissioners of a previous request by Commissioner Moreno to discuss Town Lake dam problems, specifically regarding potential flooding risks associated with the Longhorn Dam. Commissioner Moreno and Chief Evans agreed to talk separately to sort out the scope of the matter.

#### 5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Webber, seconded by Vice-Chair Levy. Meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.