



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING
Monday, January 5, 2015

The Public Safety Commission convened a regular meeting on Monday, January 5, 2015 at City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Kim Rossmo called the Commission Meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Dr. Kim Rossmo, Chair
Sam Holt, Vice Chair
Michael Levy, Vice Chair
Kent Anschutz
Dr. Michael Lauderdale
Rebecca Webber

Commission Members not in Attendance:

Reynaldo Moreno

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the regular meeting on 12/01/14 were approved on Commissioner Lauderdale's motion, Vice Chair Holt's second and a vote of 6-0, with Commissioner Moreno not in attendance.

2. Citizen Communications

- No general Citizen Communications

3. Discussion and Possible Action Items

a. City Council Ordinance relating to Boards and Commissions

- Chair Rossmo gave a brief background, explaining the recommendation that had been made by the Boards and Commissions Transition Task Force (est. by City Council Resolution No. 20131121-056) to merge the Public Safety Commission (PSC) with the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee (DACCAC).

For more information on the Public Safety Commission, please contact Austin Police Department, Assistant Chief Brian Manley, at (512) 974-5030. The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least four (4) days before the meeting date. Please contact Jennifer Heatly at the Austin Fire Department, at (512) 974-4110, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

- The recommendation was objected to on the grounds that the PSC was already busy and would likely get even busier once it expanded to eleven (11) members.
- There were also concerns of potential conflicts between a board that advises on policing and law enforcement matters and one that advises on judicial matters, and a lack of separation of powers of the state.
- The recommendation ultimately was not approved; the PSC and DACCAC will remain separate unless action is taken by the new City Council to do otherwise.
- Commissioner Lauderdale offered brief comments in support of the two advisory groups remaining separate, and shared his hope that the new Council maintains that practice.

b. Criteria for Dispatching the Austin Fire Department with Emergency Medical Services on Medical Calls

- Chair Rossmo noted this item was primarily a placeholder and that the main discussion would be occurring at the next (February) Public Safety Commission meeting, along with representation from the departments and Office of the Medical Director.
- Vice Chair Levy commented on the background and expectations of this item. Specifically, he noted his concern for dispatching AFD on all medical calls and how that practice impacts: 1) risk to the public, 2) taking AFD apparatus out of its first alarm territories for major medical and fire calls, and 3) apparatus wear and tear, and gas consumption. Vice Chair Levy also noted his previous request for benchmarking data and his continued interest in comparing this practice with other cities. For the next meeting, he requested the presenters include information on the percentage of calls with AFD and the types of calls.
- Chair Rossmo requested this information be made available for the Commissioners' review no later than the Friday before the scheduled meeting.

c. South by Southwest After Action Report Discussion

- Commissioner Webber recused herself from this item due to a conflict.
- Assistant Police Chief Jason Dusterhoft presented on lessons learned from last year's South by Southwest events. This presentation also included an overview of the City's and Department's plans for this year's South by Southwest events, specifically pertaining to coordination, closure/barricades, traffic control, staffing and response.
- Commissioners followed up with a brief question and answer (Q/A) period.

d. FY 16 Business Plan

- The Austin Police Department, Austin Fire Department, and Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services Department each presented their respective FY16 departmental business plans highlighting key indicators for budget preparation, horizon issues and critical needs, and performance gaps.
- Commissioners followed up with a brief question and answer (Q/A) period.

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e. Town Lake (Longhorn) Dam Issues

- Assistant Fire Chief Brian Tanzola addressed a concern raised by Commissioner Moreno at the previous meeting of whether the Town Lake (Longhorn) Dam floodgates were controlled manually. Commissioner Moreno was not present to confirm, but it was presumed the context of this item related to an incident which occurred during the Halloween Flood event where a loose barge hit the floodgates, preventing them from being opened as quickly as usual and contributing to a backup of water.
- Chief Tanzola verified with Austin Energy that it is industry standard to operate floodgates manually so there is always a visual on the gate conditions as they are opening or closing. Additionally, all dams in this area, including those maintained by the Lower Colorado River Authority, are controlled manually, not remotely.

f. Managed Towing Program

- Representatives from APD provided a presentation on the Department's current towing system, describing some of its challenges, and explained the benefits of moving toward a managed towing program. This item was not intended for action by the Commission. Rather, it was provided for informational purposes and to highlight components of an item scheduled to go before the City Council on January 29, 2015.
- Commissioners followed up with a brief question and answer (Q/A) period.
- Richard Pope, representing the Austin Towing Association, addressed the Commission and provided a brief summary of the Association's concerns and position on the matter.

4. Discussion Regarding Potential Future Agenda Items

- During APD's business plan presentation, Chair Rossmo requested an item to discuss departmental over-hiring.
- Also during APD's business plan presentation, Commissioner Anschutz requested information on the amount of forfeiture monies collected by APD and how those funds are used. At Chair Rossmo's recommendation, this topic was included on the list of future agenda items.
- During EMS's business plan presentation, Vice Chair Levy requested the absolute number of calls within the distribution of +9, 12, 15, 18 and 21 minutes.

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chair Levy, seconded by Commissioner Anschutz. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.