



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
*Monday, February 2, 2015***

The Public Safety Commission convened a regular meeting on Monday, February 2, 2015 at City Hall, 301 West 2nd 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
Kent Anschutz
Dr. Michael Lauderdale
Reynaldo Moreno
Rebecca Webber

Commission Members not in Attendance:

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the regular meeting on 01/05/15 were approved on Commissioner Lauderdale's motion, Commissioner Moreno's second and a vote of 7-0.

2. Citizen Communications

- Lucius Lomax spoke to concerns related to courtesy of Austin Police Officers.
- Tony Marquardt, President of the Austin-Travis County EMS Association, provided an update on infectious disease preparedness and control efforts.

3. Discussion and Possible Action Items

a. Forensic Support for Property Crime

- Ed Harris, Chief of Field Support Services for the Austin Police Department (APD), accompanied by APD Commander Jessie Brown, provided a presentation on the challenges currently facing the Austin crime lab and issues contributing to the latent print backlog.

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 presentation included a brief background on the latent print workgroup/unit, an overview of historic and current staffing issues, impacts to productivity, overview of events leading to the current backlog, and summary of remediation efforts.
- A notable conclusion of the presentation was the need for additional staffing, as the unit has confronted an increased caseload with no new positions added for several years.
- Commissioners followed up with a brief question and answer (Q/A) period.
- **Action Item:** Chair Rossmo made a motion recommending the City Council provide appropriate budget resources for the APD Forensic/Latent Print Examiner Unit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lauderdale; motion passed with a vote of 7-0. Jennifer Heatly, Public Safety Commission Liaison, will draft the recommendation to City Council and present to the Commission for approval.

b. Department of Justice Consent Decree

- Lee Crawford, Law Department Division Chief, provided a briefing to the Commission on the current Consent Decree between the City of Austin and United States Department of Justice. The briefing included a background of the events leading to the Consent Decree, a description of the Consent Decree requirements, and summary of the current City of Austin compliance activities.
- Bob Nicks, President of the Austin Firefighters Association, provided a counter-perspective on behalf of the Association.
- Commissioners followed up with a brief question and answer (Q/A) period.

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

- The Commission agreed to take up Item 3(d) ahead of Item 3(c). Item 3(c) was not heard due to time constraints.

d. Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services Medic Termination Process

- Due to time constraints, this item was taken out of order and heard by the Commission in place of Item 3(c).
- Michael Cronig, Assistant City Attorney, gave a presentation on the Texas Local Government Code and the criteria applied to the disciplinary suspension or removal of a medic. Mr. Cronig also spoke to the criteria applied by the Office of the Medical Director (OMD) in cases involving the de-credentialing of a medic, and the authority of the OMD as provided in state statute.
- Tony Marquardt, President of the Austin-Travis County EMS Association, provided brief remarks on behalf of the Association, highlighting their concerns.
- Dr. Paul Hinchey, Travis County Medical Director, gave brief remarks on behalf of the OMD, discussing the OMD's processes in more detail.
- Commissioners followed up with a brief question and answer (Q/A) period.

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4. Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items

- Vice Chair Levy made a request that the Austin Fire Department Chief of Staff serve as the Department's representative at all future Commission meetings. Vice Chair Levy further requested that in the event the Fire Chief did not agree with that request, the Commission place an item on its next agenda to approve a resolution to the City Council regarding Chiefs of Staff representing their respective departments at the Commission.
- Vice Chair Levy requested an item be placed on an upcoming agenda to discuss staffing issues in the Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services Department.
- Commissioner Anschutz reiterated his request to obtain data from the Austin Police Department regarding forfeitures and the use of those funds by the Department. Chair Rossmo stated he would try and have the item included on the March agenda.

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Lauderdale, seconded by Commissioner Moreno. Meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.