



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 4, 2015**

The Public Safety Commission convened a regular meeting on Monday, May 4, 2015 at City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Kim Rossmo called the Commission Meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Dr. Kim Rossmo, Chair
Michael Levy, Vice Chair
Kent Anschutz
Dr. Michael Lauderdale
Reynaldo Moreno
Rebecca Webber

Commission Members not in Attendance:

Sam Holt, Vice Chair

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the regular meeting on 04/06/15 were approved on Commissioner Lauderdale's motion, Commissioner Moreno's second and a vote of 6-0. Vice Chair Holt was not in attendance.

2. Citizen Communications

- Edward Sledge – spoke on Distracted Driving Ordinance and extending text ban to stopped vehicles.

3. Discussion and Possible Action Items

a. Recommendation for Body-Worn Cameras

- Chair Rossmo read the Commission's recommendation for the record, and discussed the Commission's position. The Commission recommended proceeding carefully and systematically with the implementation of body-worn cameras (BWCs).

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 included language supporting: 1) full consideration of scientific research on BWCs; 2) development of a comprehensive privacy policy; 3) selection of technology with automatic activation capabilities; and 4) determination of full cost of implementation and operation of BWCs.
- A motion to approve the recommendation was made by Vice Chair Levy, and seconded by Commissioner Moreno. There was discussion on the motion. The motion passed and the recommendation was approved on a vote of 5-1 with Commissioner Webber voting against and Vice Chair Holt not present.

b. Austin/Travis County Sobriety Center Working Group

- Andy Brown of The Brown Firm, PLLC and Chair of the Sobriety Center Planning Committee, provided a briefing on the group's research and planning efforts, and introduced the panel members.
- Judge Nancy Hohengarten described the problem(s) contributing to the need for a sobriety center and the benefits of such a center. Judge Hohengarten also explained next steps of the process.
- Roger Jefferies, Justice & Public Safety County Executive for Travis County, spoke to the feasibility study efforts and provided further background on the project.
- Assistant Police Chief Jason Dusterhoft spoke to the current impact of highly intoxicated individuals on Austin police officers, and highlighted some of the improvements a sobriety center would have on the police department.
- Ashton Cumberbatch, VP of Advocacy and Government & Community Relations at Seton Healthcare Family, further elaborated on the impact a sobriety center would have on the overall health system, particularly the Seton Health Network.
- Dr. Christopher Ziebell, ED Medical Director at UMC Brackenridge, spoke to the existing impact of excessively intoxicated patients on the emergency room system, and the likely improvement a sobriety center would contribute.
- A motion to support the sobriety center was made on the dais by Commissioner Lauderdale and seconded by Commissioner Moreno. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0 with Vice Chair Holt not present.

c. Department's Initial Budget Requests

- APD Chief of Staff Brian Manley provided a brief overview of the Police Department's pending and preliminary budget requests.
- EMS Chief of Staff James Shamard provided the same information for EMS.
- AFD Assistant Chief Brian Tanzola provided a similar overview for AFD.
- Commissioners followed up with a brief question and answer (Q/A) period.

d. Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) "50-Foot No Wake Zone" Rule

- David Douglas, Assistant City Attorney, gave a briefing on the City's authority regarding the enforcement of the "no wake zone" on Lake Austin, and described the City's interest in addressing boating concerns through other means.
- Commissioners followed up with a brief question and answer (Q/A) period.

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- Citizen Communications: Alan Roddy addressed the Commission with his concerns.

e. Wildfire Personnel Reassignments and Future Organizational Plans

- Assistant Fire Chief Matt Orta provided a briefing on the Wildfire Division and organizational plans.
- Commissioner Moreno raised questions about future personnel plans for the Division.
- Bob Nicks, President of the Austin Firefighters Association, expressed concerns with staffing and the organizational structure of the Wildfire Division.
- Commissioners followed up with a brief question and answer (Q/A) period.

f. Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services Use of Overtime

- EMS Assistant Chief Jasper Brown provided a summary of EMS staffing as of April 20, 2015, and spoke to the department's use of overtime.
- Tony Marquardt, President of the EMS Employees Association, presented the Association's perspective.
- Commissioners followed up with a brief question and answer (Q/A) period.

4. Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items

- None

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Anschutz, seconded by Commissioner Webber. Meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.