



**Public Safety Commission
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, September 8, 2015**

The Public Safety Commission convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at Town Lake Center, 721 Barton Springs Road in Austin, Texas.

Chair Kim Rossmo called the Board Meeting to order at 4:00p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Dr. Kim Rossmo, Chair	Daniela Nunez
Rebecca Webber, Vice Chair	Ed Scruggs
Rebecca Gonzales	William Worsham
John Hernandez	
Michael Levy	

Staff in Attendance:

Jessica Robledo, Assistant Chief, Austin Police Department
Brian Tanzola, Assistant Chief, Austin Fire Department
Jasper Brown, Assistant Chief, Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services
Janet Jackson, Constituent Liaison, Austin Police Department

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The minutes for the regular meeting on 8/3/2015 were approved on Commissioner Levy's motion, Commissioner Gonzales second and a vote of 8-0
Commissioner Holt and Commissioner Haley were not in attendance

2. CHIEFS' INTRODUCTIONS

Chief Art Acevedo, Chief Ernesto Rodriquez, and Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr, were not in attendance due to attending the mandatory City of Austin Budget Work Session at City Hall.

3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

- Mario Cantu, Citizen spoke on Austin Fire Department and mass fire casualties in the City of Austin mainly in high rise apartments/condos. He shared an Austin American Statesman newspaper article written on fire fighter shortage in downtown high-rise fires.
- Scott Johnson, Citizen, member of Distracted Driving Working Group spoke on distracted driving citations and questioned whether or not the citations were paid or simply dismissed. He commented that City of Austin has too many ordinances in place that are not enforced. He stated the Public Safety Commissioners should want to know the disposition of distracted driving citations that are written.

4. DEPARTMENT BRIEFINGS

Austin Police Department briefing by Jessica Robledo, Assistant Chief Austin Police Department
APD at a Glance overview begin with an organizational chart of Austin Police Department and the mission statement. The map of the four geographic regions of APD was presented to the board along

with statics on violent crime, property crime, traffic fatalities, and Austin Police Department response times. Other topics discussed were the budget overview, current staffing and police oversight. There was discussion and questions from the board members during the presentation and Ron MacKay, Manager of Research and Planning, Austin Police Department assisted Assistant Chief Robledo providing explanations for some of the data reported to the board.

Questions & Comments from Board Members:

Chair Rossmo asked for a presentation on financial crimes and how they impact the city. How many of each type, total financial impact, how we investigate them, what can be done about them, challenges with investigating (future agenda item)?

Chair Rossmo asked why we weren't requesting more civilians for property crime evidence investigation, specifically crime techs for property crimes?

Vehicles of those caught driving on an invalid license- Can we "seize" the vehicle ? Chief Robledo noted we could but it is not done very often. The Commission also wanted to know how often vehicles are seized.

Commissioner Webber asked is there a warrant for phone data in the event of a fatal crash?

Commissioner Skaggs asked, what are the theories of why traffic fatalities are up? Have you ever compared citation data vs. fatalities, meaning is there a correlation between writing lots of tickets and experiencing lower fatalities? What is the ratio of fatalities per capita and per incident by year compared to population growth?

Commissioner Worsham question and comment: What happened in 2011 that caused a spike in traffic fatalities? It seems like that since 2011 our fatalities have stayed higher. The population has steadily risen, but in 2011 we observed a large spike in fatalities and we stayed relatively high.

Commissioner Levy commented, some fatalities on I35 are listed as suicide as opposed to accident. Why are these numbers not included in the statics?

Commissioner Levy question regarding response times, when does the response time clock start? Is it as soon as the call goes through and starts ringing (thus counting ring time and hold time) or does it start when the call taker answers the phone? Or does it start when the dispatcher answers the call from the call taker?

Commissioner Hernandez asked what is the usual or average length of time from when a contact is made until they enter the academy?

Commissioner Webber asked where does Austin Police Department stack up in regards to pay?

Commissioner Rossmo asked what is starting salary for Austin Police Officers?

Commissioner asked about the percentage of officers who live outside the city limits?

Commissioner Webber asked about where are we finding our best candidates?

Commissioner Gonzales asked about finding candidates- where are we finding them, and how are we attracting minorities?

What statistics do you have for stopping bad characters? (OPM, GAP, discipline, etc)?

Commissioner Webber asked how does Austin Police Department track customer service?

DEPARTMENT BRIEFING

ASSISTANT CHIEF JASPER BROWN, AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES presented on EMS history, services, deployment, finance, budget breakdown, revenue and fees. There was discussion and questions during the presentation from the board members.

- Employee Development Wellness – how many credential paramedics?
- How many FTs in Special Events Department
- How many credential employees in the chief’s office?
- Community Health Care Program-where is it working or not working?
- Event Based number of shifts required
- How many transports from an Special Event? Could a contractor handle the job?
- How are billing disputes handled?
- EMS data on number of calls for F1, SXSW
- What is the percent of someone being called from the on call list?
- EMS organization chart

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Presentation on what percentage of calls involve EDP
- Presentation on one year of Financial Crime Impact (in future six months, Commissioner Rossmo)
- Open Carry Law and Signs at City Hall (Commissioner Skaggs)
- Wildfires (Commissioner Levy)
- Mental Health in general and how it affects the City of Austin budget? (Commissioner Worsham)
- Vision Zero Presentation (Commissioner Nunez)
- Next 3-4 months presentation by EMS Chief m

7. ADJOURN

Chair Rossmo adjourned the meeting at 6:00p.m. without objection.