



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Monday, December 7, 2015**

The Public Safety Commission convened a regular meeting on Monday, December 7, 2015 at City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

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

Board Members in Attendance:

Dr. Kim Rossmo, Chair	William Worsham
Rebecca Webber, Vice Chair	Ed Scruggs
Brian Haley	Daniela Nunez
Michael Levy	

Board Members not in Attendance:

Rebecca Gonzales
John Hernandez
Sam Holt

Staff in Attendance:

Brian Manley, Chief of Staff, Austin Police Department
Jasper Brown, Assistant Chief, Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services
Brian Tanzola, Assistant Chief, Austin Fire Department

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The minutes for the regular meeting on 11/2/2015 were approved on Commissioner Haley’s motion, Commissioner Levy’s second and a vote of 7-0.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

- **Michael Fossum** (Zoda Vega donating her time to Mr. Fossum) Mr. Fossum spoke on an a request for fundamental change to the current coyote policy from the Animal Advisory Commission that is expected to be recommended to the Public Health and Human Services Committee sometime in January 2016, and afterwards forwarded to the City Council. Mr. Fossum expressed concerns on this recommendation and what the impact would be on neighborhoods (mainly the children and pets of residents), the cost of the changes to the City of Austin, and how hazing(trying to scare the coyotes away) simple does not work. Mr. Fossum asked Public Safety Commission to request City Council to delay a decision on such an important issue as this one. Animal Advisory Commission’s request for a fundamental change if adopted will endanger public safety, increase costs of managing aggressive coyotes per Mr. Fossum’s final comment.
- **Erin Saffell** – commented on illegal pet trading/purchasing of animals via a website and craig’s list. Austin is a “No Kill City” however the city needs to monitor other safety and cruelty to animals concerns at the trading and selling websites. Some of the sites sell guns in addition to stolen animals

on their sites. Per Ms. Seffell said she is made aware of these sites due to students viewing these sites and making illegal purchases that she herself has taken in a dog and spent money on helping the dog to get well/recovery. Ms. Saffell asked if someone could look into this criminal activity and offer some assistance.

- **Pat Valls Trelles** – shared she is a former member of the Animal Advisory Commission and wanted to dispute some of the comments made earlier by Mr. Fossum. She mentioned the Animal Advisory Commission’s recommendation is a good one for wildlife management practices. A second request from the Animal Advisory Commission is that the City of Austin and Travis County would create a new position for their staff to manage the wildlife issues of Travis County and City of Austin. She believes that there are numerous best practices currently being used by other cities and Austin should be exploring those practices. Her last comment was the Pet Trader Ordinance was established while she was on the Animal Advisory Board and it needs to be reviewed to find out if it is working and if not how does the City of Austin fix/enforce the ordinance.

3. APPROVAL OF 2016 CALENDAR

- **Chair Rossmo** began discussion on the approval of the 2016 calendar and proposed the January 2016 meeting be struck (same as 2015 schedule) from the 2016 schedule due to the holidays. **Vice Chair Webber** asked if maybe in the new year the Public Safety Commission meetings could be extended a little longer maybe 3pm-6pm. **Chair Rossmo** commented that’s a separate discussion (it was not listed on December 2015 agenda). **Chair Rossmo** also advised board members to observe the attendance at today’s meeting (barely had a quorum); and extending the length of the meeting could have a negative impact on always having a quorum present. **Commissioner Levy** suggested before we secure/lock in the current times on the proposed calendar that room availability be checked. Chief of Staff, Brian Manley responded he would need to check with Ms. Estrada, Boards and Commissions Liaison. **Commissioner Haley** asked, could we approve the calendar to February 2016 and discuss the remainder of the schedule at a later date. Commissioner Rossmo reminded the board that this was not a December 2015 agenda item. Chair Rossmo asked for a motion to go with the current proposed schedule for 2016. Commissioner Levy motioned and Commissioner Worsham seconded. The motion failed on a vote of 3 for and 4 against. Vice Chair Webber offered a motion to hold the January 4, 2016 meeting and have a discussion on extending the length of the future meetings. Commissioner Haley motioned to accept and Worsham seconded. **Chair Rossmo** commented that extending the meetings would be a fundamental change against what everyone signed up for.

4. OPEN CARRY TRAINING

a. **Michael Barker, Officer Austin Police Department and James Beck, Sargent, Austin Police Department - Officer Barker presented on House Bill 910 which allows a license holder to “Open Carry” a handgun in a holster effective January 1, 2016. A training outline for police officers on various topics for open carry was presented. The topics include: Display of License and Disarming, Communications Protocol for Open Carry, Tactis Response and Reporting.** Several points were reiterated by Officer Barker: **1.** When and where you carry a firearm has not changed much. Businesses must post signs if open carry is not allowed at their business. **2.** License Requirements, currently there is not a law against not showing a license. However City of Austin passed an ordinance pertaining to if any licensed holder fails to produce/show his /her license to an officer their name would be reported to Department Public Safety. **3.** Lockers being used for securing a firearm at designated places. Several questions from the board members: Who will be asked to display license (what is the determining factor for an officer to ask)? How and what is being done to educate the citizens and business owners on the new Open Carry law? **Chief of Staff, Brian Manley** offered information on where business owners could find detailed information for businesses on sign posting requirements related to Open Carry (Texas Handguns Laws Sections 30.6 & 30.07).

Is there any sort of database in Texas that shows a listing of who has a gun license that Austin Police officers would have access to the information? What type of training for the 911 dispatchers on reporting a call on individual with a gun? Chief of Staff Manley commented that certain questions will be asked by dispatch when receiving a 911 call reporting an open carry but, Austin Police will not be relying only on the answers received and the tone of the caller when answering an Open Carry call. The officers will still rely on training to be used when answering any call and how to approach/respond.

5. DEBRIEF – ONION CREEK FLOODS

- **Austin Fire Department _ Division Chief Larry Jantzen, and Commander Daryl Jamail, Austin Police Department - Chief Larry Jantzen** presented an update on where Austin Fire Department was in 2013 floods and where they are now in 2015. The largest improvement for Austin Fire Department has been the additional equipment purchase (i.e., from 4 to 6 Swift Water Rescue boats and from 2 to 4 support vehicles used as tow platforms). Other significant positive impacts are new APD Dispatcher Call Triage System, Austin Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services established a Joint Operations Center. **Chief of Staff, Jasper Brown** commented, they answered 345 calls in 2013 and 445 calls during 2015 flood. In addition to answering the calls, there was Sheltering Operations and Emergency Medical Services that began meeting with flood victims right of way to assist with getting replacements medications, contacting physicians and arranging clinic visits. **Commander Daryl Jamail** reported a 167% increase in the number of calls answered in 2015 from calls answered in 2013. In addition the establishment of an “After Action Review” really helped his department to review success and areas of improvement needed to assist them (911 dept) in continuing to improve their service to the community.

5. NEW BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **Chair Rossmo** mentioned having the Austin Coyote Policy on future agenda. Commissioner Levy requested a future item on need for fire units and Rossmo suggested fire stations be included in the item. Commissioner requested an future update on Austin Police Department Body Cameras, and Commissioner Scruggs inquired about possibility of reviewing the RFP for body cameras and Chief Manley informed the board that the RFP was released today and would send the link to the board members. Commissioner Worsham requested more discussion time in the future meetings for board members. Chair Rossmo suggested a Working Group be formed to explore other ways to accommodate Worshman’s suggestion. Vice Chair Webber motioned to approve and Commissioner Nunez seconded. Working Group was formed with Webber, Nunez, Worsham and Haley making up the working group. Commissioner Scruggs asked about North Rundberg update and Commissioner Nunez requested revisiting discussion of wildfires and rock throwing incidents.

6. ADJOURN: At 6pm Commissioner Haley motioned to adjourn (*No motion, second or vote is required to adjourn the meeting unless there is an objection to adjourning.*)