



**Public Safety Committee
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
January 25, 2016**

The Public Safety Committee convened in a regular meeting on Monday, January 25, 2016 at 301 W. Second St. in Austin, Texas.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Zimmerman called the Board Meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Don Zimmerman, Chair; Vice Chair; Ora Houston; Leslie Pool

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee approved the minutes of the November 30, 2015 meeting on a unanimous vote; with 3/0, with Council Member Casar off the dais.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. REVIEW OF HIGH-LEVEL PUBLIC SAFETY METRICS WITH CITY STAFF.

- Presentations were given by Chief of Staff Jasper Brown with Austin – Travis County Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Chief of Staff Tom Dodds with the Austin Fire Department (AFD) and Chief of Staff Brian Manley with the Austin Police Department (APD).

**3. STAFF BRIEFING, INVITED TESTIMONY, AND POLICY DISCUSSION
REGARDING CITY OF AUSTIN MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES.**

- Municipal Court Presiding Judge Sherry Statman provided an update regarding the posting of a Municipal Court Associate Judge. While not required for this position, based on Council direction, the Human Resources Department (HRD) will analyze the requirements for and fiscal impact of adding an Associate Judge position.
- This item will be returned to the Public Safety Committee with a recommendation from Municipal Court and HRD. The timeline for making the recommendations is estimated at end of May or June 2016.
- Assistant City Manager Rey Arellano will work with the Chair's office to inform the Council of this approach.

**4. 4:20 PM - STAFF BRIEFING, INVITED TESTIMONY, AND POLICY DISCUSSION
REGARDING CLASSIFICATIONS AND POSITIONS IN THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE
OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING
ELIMINATING AND CREATING CERTAIN POSITIONS, ESTABLISHING PAY
RATES, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 20150908-006 RELATING TO**

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT CLASSIFICATIONS AND POSITIONS.

- This item was on the Council agenda in December and was pulled to allow time for EMS management and the EMS Association to meet and work out differences on the Medic I and II positions.
- EMS Chief of Staff Jasper Brown reported that he has met with the Association and management understands their goals, but the plan is to hire where staff is currently needed the most; which is in EMS Communications where staffing relief with Medic I's is a need.
- Austin – Travis County EMS Employee Association President, Anthony Marquardt, wants to fill all of the positions available which includes both Medic I's and Medic II's. He stated that while the Association does not want to give up the Medic II positions, it agrees that staffing relief in Communications is needed. Mr. Marquardt would like to see more Medic I positions created and leave the Medic II positions so that there are promotional opportunities for Medic I employees.
- Council Member Pool commented that it seems more expeditious to add additional Medic I positions instead of removing promotable positions of Medic II.
- This item will move forward to the Tuesday Council Work Session and to full Council on Thursday, January 28, 2016.

5. 4:40 PM - STAFF BRIEFING, INVITED TESTIMONY, AND POLICY DISCUSSION REGARDING AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT SWAT TEAM METRICS.

Todd Gage, Commander, Special Operations with Austin Police Department provided a briefing on the SWAT Unit's purpose, functions that are performed, fleet, staffing levels and response data. The APD SWAT Unit is only one of the units inside of APD Special Operations Command.

Speaker:

- Daren Cohen, Deputy Director for the Center for Effective Justice, Texas Public Policy Foundation.

6. 5:00 PM - STAFF BRIEFING, INVITED TESTIMONY, AND POLICY DISCUSSION REGARDING "SANCTUARY CITY" AND BOOKING FACILITY POLICIES.

- APD Chief of Staff Brian Manley said that Austin is not a sanctuary city and APD cooperates with any and all federal agencies whenever there is a criminal nexus and they take all of their arrests to the Travis County jail and then it is up to them the level of cooperation they have.
- Major Wes Priddy, Travis County Sheriff's Office Jail – Travis County Sheriff's Office does also cooperate with all law enforcement agencies to include honoring all detainers, lawful detainers placed on individuals in our custody and that would include ice detainers.
- Council Member Zimmerman asked about the city and county interlocal agreement and that certain services included magistrations services, identification services and the county provides the jail.
- Current Police Monitor and Former Sheriff Margo Frasier provided input on this item. Council Member Pool said she thinks it is appropriate for the City's professional staff to continue with the current process.

Speaker:

- Alejandro Cazares, Campaign Manager of ICE. He stated it would be best to take his group up to speak to Mayor Adler. .

7. 5:20 PM - INVITED TESTIMONY FROM CONSTITUENTS REGARDING THE AUSTIN CODE DEPARTMENT.

Speakers:

- Cari Engle
- Mr. Pinaki
- Audrey Williams
- Doug Engle
- Dale Flatt
- Ross Silvey
- Ruben Rodriguez

- Carl Smart, Director of Code Department shared a presentation on how code responds to complaints.
- Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager, commented about the matters raised by citizens. He will be working with the Code Department to address the concerns.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

8. SPEAKERS SIGNED UP PRIOR TO THIS ITEM BEING CALLED WILL EACH BE ALLOWED THREE MINUTES TO ADDRESS THEIR CONCERNS REGARDING PUBLIC SAFETY ITEMS NOT POSTED ON THIS AGENDA.

- Mark Fisher – Concerns about driver’s without a driver’s license.
- Michael Fossum - Concerns that the City of Austin is changing the policy on coyote management.

FUTURE ITEMS

9. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

NEXT MEETING

- Monday, March 28, 2016

ADJOURN

Chair Zimmerman adjourned the meeting at 6:15p.m. without objection.