



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, May 1, 2017**

The Public Safety Commission convened a meeting on Monday, May 1, 2017 at City Hall, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas..

Chair, Rebecca Webber called the Board Meeting to order at 4:00p.m. Assistant Chief Gay was asked to brief the board on the recent press conference concerning the stabbing at University of Texas.

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Rebecca Webber, Chair	Ed Scruggs
Daniela Nunez, Vice Chair	Kim Rossmo
Noel Landuyt	Sam Holt
Preston Tyree	

**Staff in Attendance:**

Troy Gay, Assistant Chief, Austin Police Department  
Jasper Brown, Chief of Staff, Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services  
Richard Davis, Assistant Chief, Austin Fire Department

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- The minutes for the April 3, 2017 meeting were approved. Commissioner Scruggs motioned for approval of the minutes and Commissioner Nunez second. **The minutes were approved with a unanimous vote (7 Board Members in attendance)**

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS – two citizens signed up to speak**

- **Carlos Leon** – spoke on Open Records Act being violated by Capital Metro (Austin Public Transportation Bus Service) and Austin Police Department Central Records when he requested a copy of a bus video.
- **Mike Levy** - spoke on the 911 service in the City of Austin and shared a personal story he experienced recently when a family member called 911. The caller was put on hold for approximately three minutes when calling for help with someone having difficulty breathing. His experience ended well by EMS showing up in a timely fashion, but he reminded the board that nothing can happen until a 911 operator picks up the phone. Mike advised the Public Safety Commission board members to keep the issue on the table.

### **3. Introduction of New Interim Police Monitor, Deven Desai – Commissioner Webber’s Item**

Deven Desai introduced himself to the board and shared his background prior to his appointment as Interim Police Monitor.

- 2007 worked in City of Austin Law Department as an Assistant City Attorney
  - His first client was representing Police Monitor Office and Citizen Review Panel
  - 2008 worked on the negotiation of Austin police contract
  - 2011 Labor Relations Officer for City of Austin
  - 2013 Led City of Austin negotiation team
  - When Margo Frazier announced her retirement he was asked by the City Manager to become the interim Police Monitor because of his experience with the office.
- Mr. Desai answered questions from the board members and thanked them for their time.

### **4. Follow up on March presentation regarding APD Sex Crimes Unit – Commissioner Webber & Rossmo’s Item**

Assistant Chief Joe Chacon updated the board members on recent changes to case load and staffing, and the specifics regarding victim-centric training for the sworn and non-sworn staff in the Austin Police Department Sex Crimes Unit.

#### **Sex Crimes Unit - Staffing**

- Three additional detectives have been added to the Sex Crimes Unit in May 2017
- There is one more detective to be added for a total of four additional staff in the Sex Crimes Unit.
- These are not new positions, but rather adjustments made in other departments so that Sex Crimes Unit could be increased
- None of the staff adjustments were made/taken from the Robbery Unit
- Of course we would rather have the funding to simply increase the staff without having to adjust other departments

#### **Sex Crimes Unit – Training**

- Currently there are 17 detectives which is up from 13 detectives and we are happy about the increase.
- 2-3 of the 17 detectives are assigned to the cold case crimes and are Spanish speaking
- New Staff are paired with a more tenured detective to act as a field training officer for them
- Training includes attending conferences throughout the country and not every detective attends the same conference
- Spreadsheet is maintained to track training of the detectives in an effort to have all detectives receive as much training as the training budget allows
- In addition to conference there is online training/modules as well to complete

#### **Victim Services- Staffing and Training**

- Currently 32 personnel
  - o 28 counselors
  - o 3 assigned to sex crimes (all three are bilingual)

- Counselors training consist of conferences and online classes as well
- All counselors have a Master's Degree
- Counselors and detectives attend some of the same conferences
- Family violence courses online are required training
- Conference on End Violence Against Women created by Women Internationally
  - o Attended by detectives and counselors
- Monthly Meetings are scheduled and individuals or groups are invited to come and talk to our detectives and counselors
  - o District Attorney's Office reps have been invited to present
  - o Personnel/staff from SAFE

Assistant Chief Chacon commented that the leadership style is changing to a more victim centered style where the sworn focus more on victims and believe their accounts of what happened to them. Kachina Clark, Manager of Victim Services commented that their unit provide cell phones to victims and some counseling is available 24hrs. Also there are counselors assigned to the streets, meaning they accompany the sworn to the scene of a crime and are better able to assist the victim.

AC Chacon entertained questions from the board and provided responses/comments.

## **5. Briefing from Budget Office on FY 2018 Budget Process - Commissioner Webber's Item**

Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy, Chief Financial Officer for the City of Austin

Ed presented on the City of Austin Fiscal Year 2018.

- Presented Budget Development Timeline
- Included dates for public meetings concerning the budget
- Full-Day Budget Work Sessions (August 1, 16, 23, 30)
- Budget Readings Dates ( September 11-13)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Time City Council has requested a citywide Strategic Plan
- Council worked on strategic planning on January 11, 12 and April 5 during retreats
- Currently all general funds departments have gone through departmental reviews before council.
- Council was briefed last year that this fiscal year would be a tight budget year
- Fiscal Year 2018 expecting a 4.5% growth/increases
- Chart with Outstanding Council Policy Initiatives was presented
  - o Included estimated incremental operating costs of implementation
  - o Items and resolutions approved by council but not funded included 12 unfunded officers for Austin Police Department
- Link to find all budget reports and related documents, presentations (past & present), was shared with the board [austintexas.gov/finance](http://austintexas.gov/finance)

**Chair Webber** commented that all of the videos pertaining to Public Safety budgets were on the website if anyone wanted to view in efforts to be more informed/prepared for the next Public Safety meeting. Commissioner Tyree volunteered to watch the EMS video.

All board members were asked to state their items of concern to be discussed/presented at the next meeting (June 2017) .

- K2 and its financial impact/cost to all three public safety departments
- Rossmo requested a date/deadline for Public Safety Commission to have their input to council – why is the date not on the timeline?

- Scruggs requested more information on the possibility of a limited tax rollback by the State of Texas (from 8% to 5%) and its impact on the City of Austin
- Holt requested more information on the 911 and Communications Department
- Nunez requested information on the cost of healthcare and the possibility of some people without healthcare if Obamacare is removed.
- Rossmo questioned if the public safety spending had every been tracked on a per capita basis
- Scruggs requested a status of the body armor for police officers and patrol cars armor
- Nunez requested follow up on status of Community Policing/Matrix Report
  
- **Tony Marquardt's requests:**
- Body Armor/better equipment for EMS staff was mentioned by Tony. With recent injuries to medics in Dallas and the recent UT stabbing incident it was time to consider getting better equipment/armor for EMS medic/staff drivers
- 40% revenue was referenced and questioned if EMS really has 40% from COA funds because of the monies from federal grants and how the % could be very different
- Revisit and have a contingency plan for the Austin Travis County Interlocal Agreement (the 11 ambulances of Travis County were mentioned)
- What are the 80 vacancies the impact of proper reclassifications and are some vacancies overlapping?
- Technology and Inoperability needs to be considered , mainly mobile intergrated health technology
- What is the best software to buy and look to move out of current EPR system and allow medics to be able to speak with St. David's and Seaton communities

#### **6. Wildland Urban Interface Safety Measures – Commissioner Nunez's Item**

Justice Jones, with Austin Fire Department and Robert (Bob) Nicks, President, Austin Firefighter Association was in attendance to answer questions on WUI Code being included in the CODENext draft. Commissioner Scruggs had a question on where in the timeline of CODENext draft would the WUI Code be included. Based on comments concerning the timeline at the last CODENext meeting Commissioner Scruggs attended he was not clear on where and if this would be included. Bob Nicks commented that we (AFD) are already behind on completing the mapping overlay because the department lost our mapping person. Nicks mentioned that they were supposed to report back every 6 months to the Public Safety Committee on the status of the WUI code but since the Committee no longer exists maybe a letter should be written to council requesting that a six month status report be presented to the Public Safety Commission instead. Commissioner Tyree motioned for a vote to be taken to send the letter. **Commissioner Webber called for a vote:**

**Vote – Unanimous (7 board members present) to send the letter to CODE Next**

#### **7. Follow-up from April 2017 Presentation Regarding Homeless Outreach Team (HOST) – Commissioner Scruggs Item**

Andy Hofmeister. Division Chief, Austin Travis County Emergency Medical Services

Webber opened up the conversation explaining what questions the board was looking to have answers on following up form the last meeting.

- Number of calls for emotionally disturbed people?
- Number of homeless people from other cities/places?

The numbers/data on homeless population shared by APD during the presentation left Commissioner Rossmo with questions on the increasing population and searching for real numbers on why the increase of the population. It was suggested by Commissioner Nunez that ECHO be invited to present at one of the PSC meetings so they could share their data on the homeless population. Commissioner Holt suggested working with the ARCH to get information as well since so many people check there first for a bed when coming to Austin. Commissioner Scruggs was okay with inviting ECHO to a future meeting to share their homeless data with the board.

## **8. Future Agenda Items**

- Investigator hired by City of Austin to investigate DNA Lab (August 2017)
- HOST Update in summer of 2017 (Scruggs)
- SAFE HORNS Organization (Scruggs) (June 2017)
- Violent Crime Increase in Austin – include the numbers for last five years (Scruggs)
- Status on Community Policing Recommendations (Nunez)
- Update on Diversity in the Workplace (Gonzales) (June 2017)
- Visitor’s Impact Task Force (Webber) (June 2017)
- Budget Overviews from Public Safety Departments (June 2017)
  - o K2
    - 911 Calling Center
    - Cost of Health Care
    - APD Body Armor
    - Community Relations
- Update ARIC by Don Foster
- Public Safety Department Customer Survey (Rossmo)
- Six Months Update on WUI Code Adoption Timeline (Tyree)
- Hiring Process for Permanent Police Monitor (Scruggs)
- Presentation by ECHO (Nunez)
- Austin Transportation Department offered to present – New Nonradioactive Hazardous Materials Route through Austin
- APD’s data collection regarding immigration status (Nunez)

Adjourn @ 6pm