



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, August 6, 2018**

**The Public Safety Commission convened a meeting Monday, August 6, 2018 at City Hall 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.**

**Vice- Chair, Carol Lee** called the Board Meeting to order at 4:00p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Carol Lee	Noel Landuyt
Rebecca Gonzales	Sam Holt
Daniela Nunez	Ed Scruggs
Kim Rossmo	Preston Tyree
Brian Haley	

Absent - Commissioner Rebecca Webber  
Commissioner Michelle McCurdy

**Staff in Attendance:**

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

Commissioner Lee opened the meeting with announcing Commissioner Webber and McCurdy were absent for this meeting and she would be covering the meeting in Commissioner Webber's absence.

Commissioner Lee acknowledged Tara Long's attendance as a substitute liaison for the meeting and asked that all assist her in keeping the meeting on track tonight. Commissioner Lee then moved to citizen communications on the agenda and noted there was one person signed up to speak on item number 6. Austin Police Commander, Brent Dupree signed up to speak on item #6, not realizing it was not necessary for him to sign up because he was the presenter for Austin Police Department Body Worn Cameras topic.

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS –**

- **There were no citizens signed up to speak**

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Vice Chair Lee asked the board for an approval of the minutes Commissioner Holt motioned for approval of the minutes and Commissioner Gonzales seconded. Vice Chair Lee took a vote and the July 2, 2018 minutes were approved unanimously.

**Vote: Unanimous (9-0)**

**For: 9**

**Against: 0**

**Absent: 2 (Webber and McCurdy)**

Commissioner Lee thanked Commissioner Holt for the reminder to vote for the July 2, 2018 draft minutes.

**3. Monthly Stats from Public Safety Departments** – Monthly stats from public safety departments – authorized strength by rank, vacancies by rank, overtime hours by rank, call volume by Council District, response times by council District - sponsored by Commissioners Landuyt and Webber

**Commissioner Lee** asked the EMS to begin the presentations, but since EMS executive staff hadn't arrived yet Assistant Chief Gay offered to begin the Austin Police Department's presentation. The data started with calls for service/response time's data broken down by city districts. Per **AC Gay** all of APD's vehicles are currently deployed and that has had a slight positive effect on calls. In the prior months when our call times were a little longer was due to our officers having to double up in cars/vehicles.

Austin Police Department Overtime Cost is a little over 9 million and our actual spent overtime is a little over 10 million. AC Gay commented that in the past APD have been able to cover our overage with cost savings in other areas. **Commissioner Haley** asked if APD had ever calculated cost for every additional hire what/how that could do to overtime cost? **Assistant Chief Gay's** response: we have not specifically run calculated the possible impact, but we could like into it if you (Commissioner Haley) would like to see the calculation. Other questions:

Would APD still budget for overtime if you were fully staffed, if yes, why? (Commissioner Tyree) Response: yes we would still budget for overtime because of some initiative projects in various Austin Police departments that require special skills and learning new projects use/need overtime.

Do any of the grants help with some of the initiative projects mentioned? (**Commissioner Tyree**) What we have budgeted is on with city dollars. (**AC Gay**)

At this particular time the Austin Police Commanders and Lieutenants are getting paid overtime is that correct? (**Commissioner Holt**) **AC Gay** response: yes and that is because currently we are working/operating without a contract.

**Commissioner Nunez** commented it would be good to have a list of the relevant grants APD has that could be added with this monthly reporting to the board. Having the list also helps with keeping transparency. **AC Gay** committed to checking on ways to build that (the grants list) into the monthly information for the board.

**Commissioner Lee** asked if AC Gay had any idea how much of the overtime budget was spent on/during the bombing terror in our city? I'm sure it was a tremendous amount of effort and dollars spent during this time. **AC Gay** responded he did not have the specifics, but he could get the information for her. AC Gay closed his comments with letting the board know that APD has a graduating cadet class on Friday, August 30, 2018 @ 2pm.

**Austin Fire Department – Assistant Chief Davis** – reported the monthly response times broken into districts for June and July 2018. Per **AC Davis**, Austin Fire Department works toward keeping the response time at 8 minutes. Currently Austin Fire Department is looking at preemptive devices and have invited Austin Transportation Department on ride outs with them to get a better idea of what Austin Fire Department is trying to accomplish with the devices. He provided the authorized strength number for Austin Fire Department is 1181 total. Questions:

With the building of the new Fire Stations coming on board do you have the authorized funding for them? (**Commissioner Haley**) Response: yes (AC Davis)

Does Austin Fire Department track the number and types of calls they respond to on a monthly basis? (**Commissioner Landuyt**)

I would like to see a breakdown of call types by districts? (**Commissioner Landuyt**)

Does the call system have a good way to avoid duplication of calls? (**Commissioner Nunez**) AC Davis commented that Austin Fire is usually the first public safety department on the scene and sometimes EMS does not come to a scene because of prioritizing and it simply is not necessary that they be there. On all calls however one of the Public Safety Departments is there and it is usually two out of the three of us.

#### **4. Updates on Public Safety Commissioners' involvement in various public safety-related working groups**

**Austin Police Department Equity Assessment Working Group** – Commissioner Tyree commented the group is the process of completing fully manning this group and afterwards everyone is scheduled to get involved in September 2018 meeting. Afterwards there is necessary training to be completed. Once necessary training is completed we will begin to attend a monthly meeting for the next six months.

**Office of Police Monitor Police Oversight Advisory Working Group** – Commissioner Landuyt commented there have been multiple meetings held over the last month and a half to two months. We begin with a review of the oversight department and there were other reviews with about six different cities via skype to get ideas/information on how their Police Oversight departments are set up/run. We are currently at a phase of looking to have some recommendations to council about police oversight for Austin (our city) by the end of August 2018. Commissioner Lee asked if the Public Safety board would be able to see the recommendations prior to them going to council? AC

**Troy Gay** responded there may be time in September 2018 for the board to have an opportunity to review the recommendations.

**Austin Police Department Cite and Release in Lieu or Arrest Working Group** – Commissioner Nunez commented this item/working group came about as a result of the Freedom City Policy and a resolution that was passed by Austin city council on June 14, 2018. Per AC Gay, Austin Police Department has started working on implementation of this policy and meeting with a working/stakeholders group is a part of that policy. This effort has had a lot of community involvement and participation along with great engagement from the July 19, 2018 stakeholders meeting providing input on what happens when citations are issued. AC Gay shared the next stakeholders meeting for this topic will be on August 27, 2018 at the Huston Tillotson University campus. Per AC Gay, hopefully we will have a policy that can be implemented in September 2018. **Commissioner Lee** expressed compliments to AC Gay for the good job APD had done with putting together a good stakeholders working group.

**5. Austin Police Department policy with regards to inquiring about and collecting immigration status -**

**Commissioner Nunez** introduced this item and reminded the board that she introduced this topic a few years ago to the board. She was interested in protecting people from releasing sensitive/personal information that could possibly be leaked to the federal government. How APD collects sensitive data is also a directive that is part of the Freedom /Resolution council voted on at June 14, 2018 meeting. **Commissioner Nunez** then asked if AC Gay could provide a clear implementation guideline and more specifics about the report requirements under this resolution and what the reports would look like.

Response from Assistant Gay:

In reference to the resolution itself, January 2019 will be our (Austin Police Department's) first report to City Council. The report will have information like, the number of request from APD's engagement with ICE, as well as those operations and the number of incidents and cost if any associated with that operation.

Nunez asked for more details on the kind/types of data that will be in the report? AC Gay responded, they have been meeting with stakeholders to determine if we have a good median in place to capture data correctly. Current policy requires that an officer has to document with a title code whenever he/she ask someone their immigration status and why was he/she asking the question must be completed in his/her report. Adding to the policy at the end of the month is that an officer will let the person know they are not compelled to answer the question on immigration status and regardless of their response no action will be taken right there.

Some additional data provided to the board was by AC Gay:

- there have been three inquiries into officers asking a question on someone's immigration status
- Since September 1, 2017 there has been five incidences where the question of immigration status was asked
  - the crimes being investigated were human trafficking/kidnapping and, credit card schemes

## **6. Six-months update on Austin Police Department body-worn camera deployment and police Brent Dupree, Commander, Austin Police Department**

**Commissioner Nunez** requested this item to hear how body worn cameras are being worn out in the fields currently and this is a good opportunity to reiterate the importance of public access to body worn cameras footage. There is a concern that without easy public access to the footage from police cameras the community trust will not be improved especially when the footage from critical incidents is not readily available. The timing of release of the footage is very important. We want to be sure the public is getting the benefit of the officers having body worn cameras.

Brent Dupre, Austin Police Commander presented on the topic (Body Worn Cameras)

- October 2017 when first cameras launched in Austin
- Numerous technology details had to be addressed like establishing recharging docks at all APD stations
- 1300 cameras have been deployed to date and that is thanks to some federal grants
- September 1, 2018 end date for having 1500 cameras deployed
- Every Sergeant and Lieutenant who works patrol will have a body camera by end of August 2018
- Body Worn Camera policy is the same as when we launched the project. The policy can be found on the APD website for all citizens viewing/access
- Information on how to request body camera footage is on the website as well

Nunez – do you know the number of requests for the camera footage and the number of requests that are not being fulfilled?

Assistant Chief Gay – from January 1 to June 8, 2018 there has been 57 BWC requested footage

-10 requests for camera footage released/fulfilled

Remaining requests are unfulfilled due to no footage captured at all or investigations have not been closed therefore footage cannot be released and then there are specific guidelines the law requires as to who can request and who we can release to. Chief Gay committed to getting a copy of the law to all of the board members.

Who is the vendor used to purchase the cameras? (Holt)

Who are you using for storage? (Holt)

What happened with the recent incident on 6<sup>th</sup> street where there was no footage available?  
(Scruggs)

What happens in those cases where an officer's camera falls off and therefore no footage?  
(Scruggs)

Is there a policy on what an officer should do in case camera falls off? (Scruggs)

Are you keeping track of the cost to retrieve information/camera footage? (Rossmo) Some of the costs have been reported pretty high due to the time of editing (blocking people out who are not a part of the incident)

Commander Dupree and Assistant Chief Gay discussed reasons for certain practices and the following of state law on body worn cameras for Austin police.

**7. Report on the City Auditor’s audit – effectiveness of Citizen Police Oversight  
Patrick Johnson, Office of City Auditor presenting**

A timeline of the Citizen Review Panel was presented from 2001 to 2018 (January when the panel was suspended) Mr. Johnson shared the background, findings of memos written by Citizens Review panel and the responses from Austin Police Department. The auditor’s office findings showed no substantive change with the Austin Police Department by having a review panel. Five reasons for no substantive change were found:

- Chief of Police did not have to respond to CRP recommendations
- Information created by the Citizen Review Panel was not fully protected or retained
- City of Austin did not establish clear responsibility for maintain records leading to incomplete records and limiting the CRP’s ability to identify patterns.
- Lengthy gaps between incident dates and APD presentations to the CRP limited the CRP’s ability to issue effective, timely recommendations.
- City policies prevented the CRP from communicating directly with the Chief of Police

There were questions and discussions among the board over the findings presented by the Auditor’s office. Most of the questions were concerning the protection of documents and how records retention laws were applied.

**8. Report on relationship violence prevention programs and related budget recommendation to Council**

**Commissioner Nunez introduced the speakers from SAFE. SAFE is a merger of SAFE Place and Austin Children’s Shelter.**

**Julia Spann began the presentation on how the SAFE Alliance came about and what the vision is “A safe and just community free from violence and abuse”.**

**Julie shared their proposal for Crime Prevention:**

- Proposal - Expect Respect –**
- Strong Start – for 0-5 children**

**They work closely with AISD to reach Middle and High school students in relationships and where some dating violence can start to show.**

**Melinda Cantu** addressed their Proposal TWO – Ensuring Safety

Their Mobile Advocacy program and elaborated on how they could make this community safer if we are able to do some things differently. The program would cost 353,000.00 per year and this is a scalable cost.

They discussed how abuse/violence is much more at risk for children who come from families of violence. SAFE has established programs to try and reach at risk children at an earlier age and use

- Strong start

- Expect Respect

programs based on the needs of an individual.

**Commissioner Nunez** thanked Julia and Melinda for the wonderful works there are providing via SAFE.

**Commissioner Lee** thanked the presenters as well and asked how do they identify the younger children needing SAFE's help/assistance?

**Commissioner Scruggs** – are the funds you are requesting/receiving from the City of Austin used in AISD or does AISD contribute to the programs as well? Julie commented the reason for asking for more funding is they would like to become available at all AISD schools as opposed to only some of the schools. **Commissioner Scruggs** commented on the positive work SAFE is offering and suggested a connection with other children safety programs.

**Commissioner Rossmo** cautioned the board members to use more generic language than specific in the recommendation to support this violence prevention programs and possibly run the language by Law department. **Commissioner Nunez** thanked Commissioner Rossmo for his suggestion and commented she had given some thought to his suggestion/advice. The language used in the recommendation was generic and **Commissioner Scruggs** continued to second the motion from Commissioner Nunez.



**Public Safety Commission Recommendation no. 20180806-008**

**Regarding Funding for Violence Prevention Programs in FY 2018-2019**

Date: August 6, 2018

Subject: Recommendation that Council funds violence prevention programs

The Public Safety Commission recommends to Austin City Council that the city fund early intervention relationship violence prevention programs.

Motioned by Commissioner Daniela Nunez Second by Commissioner Ed Scruggs.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**For:** 9 (Commissioners Lee, Haley, Nunez, Gonzales, Rossmo, Tyree, Landuyt, Scruggs, Holt)

**Against:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Absent:** 2 (Commissioner Rebecca Webber and Commissioner Michelle McCurdy)

Attest: *[Staff or board member can sign]*

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Janet Jackson, Board Liaison,  
Austin Police Department

**9. Future Agenda Items:**

- List of Crime Prevention Programs in City of Austin – Scruggs
- How much funding does City of Austin provide to these programs (crime/violent) (Rossmo)
- EMS update on Interlocal Agreements – (Gonzales)

**Adjourn @ 5:47pm**