



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, May 6, 2019**

**The Public Safety Commission convened a meeting Monday, May 6, 2019 at City Hall in the Boards & Commission Room, at 4:04pm, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Austin Texas 78701.**

**Rebecca Webber, Chair** called the Board Meeting to order at 4:00p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Ed Scruggs	Noel Landuyt
Daniela Nunez	Rebecca Gonzales
Preston Tyree	Selena Alvarenga
Kathleen Hausenfluck	Rebecca Bernhardt

**Board Member Absent: Rebecca Webber, and Chris Harris**

**Staff in Attendance:**

Troy Gay, Chief of Staff, Austin Police Department  
Rob Vires, Chief of Staff, Austin Fire Department  
Andy Hofmeister, Assistant Chief, Austin Travis County Emergency Medical Services

- **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Commissioner Scruggs asked if there were any changes/corrections to the April 1, 2019 minutes and hearing none Commissioner Scruggs shared his request for an edit to the minutes under Budget Recommendation/s to include:
  - o Decontamination Project –Austin Fire Department
  - o Adding an additional paramedic response team
  - o Fully funding the WUI Code
  - o Continued funding for EMCOT

**Commissioner Rebecca Gonzales** motioned to approve the minutes and **Commissioner Tyree** second the motion. Minutes were approved with edits on a unanimous vote.

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS –**

- Carlos Leon – No investigation into his complaint with the State of Texas and Capital Metro Bus Drivers behavior

- Juliana Gonzales, Senior Director of Sexual Assaults at SAFE Alliance – presented monthly data for April 2019 and commented on number of survivors served at Eloise House in the month of April 2019.

### **3. Update from Public Safety Commission Working group for the Procurement Process for the Comprehensive Evaluation of Sexual Assault Investigations**

**Commissioner Scruggs** reminded the board there was an email from Joe Silva in their packets informing the board of the procurement timeline concerning the hiring of a consultant to conduct an evaluation of sexual assault investigation. **Commissioner Gonzales** provided an update on the efforts of the working group (Webber, Bernhardt and Gonzales) since the last meeting. **Commissioner Gonzales** commented there had been sort of a cross commission group as they worked together with women from the Austin Women’s Commission as well to communicate their observations and assessments to be included/considered in the development of the contract with the finalist. **Per Commissioner Gonzales**, the City Manager’s office was receptive to their requests and comments. Items asked for by the Working Groups were:

- Request for two commissioners and a third alternate commissioner to participate in selection of the finalist and development of the contract with the finalist
- Reminded City Manager’s office that part of the purpose for this evaluation and for the participation in the procurement process is to rebuild community trust and to improve transparency. Their participation serves as a kind of proxy for the public-at-large.
- A letter was sent to City Manager’s office requesting clarification around the verbiage on the RFQ that went to the consultants.

**Commissioner Hausenfluck** asked if the working group would be involved after the finalist was selected and when it was time to work on a scope of work. **Commissioner Nunez** – asked for clarification on the conflict of interest piece and how they go about making sure the selected finalist is victim centered, understands trauma and not just be someone to do as they are told by mgmt. **Commissioner Gonzales** commented that the traits Commissioner Nunez described of the finalist was specifically laid out in the ordinance.

### **4. Formation of a Public Safety Commission working group for the Vision Zero Alliance**

**Commissioner Scruggs** introduced this item and shared some of the history of Vision Zero during the time when Mike Levy was a part of the Vision Zero Task Force. **Commissioner Tyree** commented on the benefit to the Public Safety Commission from having someone on the Vision Zero Alliance group. The main benefit is having information coming back to the Public Safety Commission on what the Vision Zero Alliance team is doing, what steps are being taken, issues discussed. He felt it would be good to have a second member from PSC on the team because he is a cyclist and biased it would be good to have a different view on the team.

**Commissioner Scruggs** asked for a second volunteer to join the Vision Zero Alliance group and Commissioner Nunez inquired about the time commitment. **Commissioner Tyree** responded he could not give her an estimate on time commitment because he does not know what the Alliance team is going to look like yet. **Commissioner Nunez** responded, “it sounds like a big commitment and passed on volunteering to join Vision Zero Alliance. **Commissioner Hausenfluck** commented she was interested but her position was the same as Commissioner Tyree’s. **Commissioner Scruggs** encouraged her to try volunteering with the Alliance team and if it just did not work out for her to let him know. **Commissioner Hausenfluck** volunteered to join the Vision Zero Alliance team.

## 5. Update from Equity Assessment Working Group

Commissioner Tyree provided an update on the Equity Assessment Working Group

- City of Austin is going through all city departments taking an assessment (60 plus questions)
- The group is currently looking at 5-7 departments within the Austin Police department mainly the unsworn staff (Records, Finances, etc...)
- Taking a look to try and figure out what can they do to make departments less discriminatory
- Chris Harris (newly appointed Public Safety Commissioner) is working in this group as well. He was appointed prior to becoming a Public Safety Commissioner.
- There is a need for documents that are distributed to the public to be printed in several languages
- APD’s Computer system does not work very well when it comes to retrieving the data. There is lots and lots of data but it is a challenge to get it out in a form we (Working Group) could use to make good decisions about where and how are we going to focus enforcement per Commissioner Tyree

Commissioner Tyree asked for a **possible future agenda item:**

- Getting a report from someone in the Austin Police department that says here’s what the situation is and we need to figure out how to fix it (in reference to getting APD’s data)

**Commissioner Scruggs** offered to have this item on the PSC agenda within the next couple of meetings (July or August 2019).

This Working Group was set up for six months and there is still about four more months to work. Commissioner Scruggs thanked Commissioner Tyree for his service.

## 6. Quarterly Stats from Public Safety Departments

Austin Fire Department and Austin Police Department presented quarterly stats on vacancies, response times, overtime hours and call volumes. Emergency Medical Services quarterly stats was postponed until June 2019 due to EMS, Chief of Staff, Jasper Brown being unable to attend the May 2019 meeting.

Response Time Goals:

AFD – eight minutes

APD – six minutes and 44seconds (for highest priority calls)

The statistics presented showed that the departments were not meeting the response time goals. **Commissioner Gonzales** commented to Austin Fire Department “I’m not trying to say we’re not doing a great job, but you’re only meeting that goal in one of your districts. AFD, Chief of Staff, Rob Vires explained how the response time goals are set based on national standards and that they are used within the department to highlight sectors where more staff is required. Based on response times we know which parts of town we have a coverage issue, per AFD, **Rob Vires**.

APD was also falling behind in meeting response times to its priority calls and **APD Assistant Chief Joe Chacon** commented we have not been hitting our citywide target for our priority 0 and 1 calls. To keep response times from drawing out, APD redraws its patrol sector lines annually to help balance call load. Both departments reported on vacancies within the department and its impact on budget and providing public safety. APD expects to have a cadet class of 80 in June 2019 to help fill the vacancies. Per, AFD, Chief of Staff, Rob Vires, Austin Fire Department is creating a new hiring list for another class in October 2019 hopefully.

## 7. Update on Electric Scooter related injury investigation

There were two presentations on this topic (electric scooter injury and amending city ordinance concerning electric scooters operating in the City of Austin)

David Zane, MS, Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit, with COA, Austin Public Health

Jason Redfern, Manager w/Austin Transportation Department

David Zane’s study on scooter related injuries looked at injuries from September 5 through November 30, 2018 in City of Austin; sources of information/data were Austin-Travis County emergency Medical Services and Hospital emergency department’s syndromic surveillance chief complaints. David presented on injuries with helmets, and without helmets (there was only one injury documented wearing a helmet at the time of injury). Public Safety Commissioners were interested in helmet access being required in the rewrites of ordinance language from ATD per **Commissioner Nunez**. **Jason Redfern, Manager with Austin Transportation Department** commented that in the ordinance rewrite for dockless scooters there would be no mention of mandating helmets.

This data (on injuries) is preliminary and is from a limited data set, the Public Safety Commissioners applauded the efforts of the Austin Public Health department.

Jason Redfern presented on Shared Micro-Mobility Definition and Use Ordinance Update

- Ordinance Next Steps
- Continued Collaboration with Austin Police Department Leadership
- Outreach to Various Stakeholders
- Draft ordinance Revision Process
- Austin Transportation Department Equity Tool Process
- Draft Ordinance Revisions and Finalization
- May 23, 2019 draft ordinance will be presented to City Council by Austin Transportation Department for a vote of approval

A copy of the draft ordinance from ATD was available for all of the Public Safety Commissioners. Jason also shared information that the Texas Legislature is also discussing regulations on scooters to reduce accidents and injuries. Last week Senate Bill 549 passed that would prohibit dockless electric scooter use on sidewalks as well as establish stricter parking restrictions and require that scooter users be at least 16 years old.

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#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Commissioner Scruggs asked that future agenda items requests be emailed to him.

**Adjournment @ 6:08pm**