



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Tuesday, September 4, 2018**

**The Public Safety Commission convened a meeting Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at City Hall
301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.**

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

Board Members in Attendance:

Rebecca Webber	Noel Landuyt
Rebecca Gonzales	Daniela Nunez
Kim Rossmo	Preston Tyree
Ed Scruggs	

Absent - Commissioner Brian Haley
Commissioner Michelle McCurdy
Commissioner Sam Holt
Commissioner Carol Lee

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Commissioner Webber opened the meeting and asked for approval of the minutes. There was one correction noted, Commissioner Daniela Nunez name was listed twice under “Board Members in Attendance”. The vote was called for the approval of the minutes with the correction noted.

Vote: Unanimous (7members in attendance)

Against: 0

Absent: 4 (Commissioners Haley, McCurdy, Holt and Lee)

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS –

- Carlos Leon – Capital Metro

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 Webber called for the monthly stats report for the three Public Safety Departments. Austin Fire Department presented first and included a breakdown on the types of calls AFD receives to the monthly report.

Assistant Chief Davis spoke to the data distributed to all board members and elaborated on the call types labeled as other.

Jasper Brown, Chief of Staff, EMS – shared the data on overtime, vacancies, call volume and upcoming graduations. There were two questions from the board members, Tyree and Scruggs.

Troy Gay, Chief of Staff, Austin Police Department – shared overtime data, vacancies, and response times. The staffing update included a recent graduation of 40 cadets which reduced current vacancies to 60. He reminded the board that although the vacancies number is 60 there are studies done that concluded APD needs more officers. There is another APD academy of 90 slated to open in January 2019.

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4. Report on upcoming improvements to Office of Police Monitor website and ongoing efforts to transform the complaint process and update from Office of the Police Monitor Oversight Advisory Working Group –

Farah Muscadin gave a quick update on the work being done by the Police Monitor Oversight Advisory Working group.

- 10-12 meetings has been held since June 2018
- The group has come up with a good set of recommendations that we need to share with the citizens/community
- Next step for the working group is to present to City Manager and then report back to City Council

The working group did reach out to other cities to observe/learn how their OPM office was set up/run and we met or spoke with San Joes, New Orleans, Denver, Minneapolis and Seattle. These meetings helped us to figure out some of our gaps in our office.

- Need for greater transparency (within the law guidelines)
- Independence – question of who should Office Police Monitor report to
- Complaint Process – this was a big discussion in our working group
- Community engagement is a high priority; more people need to know about our office and what we do (what are our services)
- Data analysis – this position is currently vacant. I had posted the position but recently pulled it because after working with the group I discovered the need for the position to be a senior position in order to complete greater analysis.
- We (OPM) need to present more than once a year to the community
- Improve the complaint process. We discovered so many of our citizens don't know about the OPM office.

The people here today are going to present what research they have done and what was found. This is really helpful to me because I need to know what is going on in the community. Austin Tech Alliance did the research to study the community and bring the data I need so I know what to work on going forward in the Office of the Police Monitor. They (Austin Tech Alliance) have data on what are the problems in our complaint process are and they made subsequent recommendations to us on how we can improve.

The presenters from Austin Tech:

- Marty Wilhite, Ben Ewing, and Chris Lideswki

Presented on:

- **Project Background**
- Activities
 - o Research & Discovery and Conception & Prototyping
- **What we learned**
 - o The barriers (mainly lack of transparency)
- **Key: Core Elements of Successful Oversight**
 - o Independence, Adequate Resources, Adequate jurisdictional Authority, Public reporting/Transparency, unfettered Access to Records, Use of statistical pattern analysis, Access to Law Enforcement Executives and Internal Affairs Staff, Community Outreach, Full Cooperation, Community Involvement, Support of Process Stakeholders, Respect for Confidentiality

Commissioner Webber introduced a recommendation for two additional positions at the OPM for 2019. One position for community oversight and one for a policy analyst and Dr. Landuyt second.

Commissioner Rossmo – What is the cost to hire two more people? Also I would expect an Austin Police Association rep to attend and have input on these recommendations. There was much discussion and **Commissioner Webber** put the recommendation back on the floor and commented the funding would not be coming from Austin Police Department for these positions.



Public Safety Commission Recommendation no. 20180904-004
Regarding Funding for Public Safety in FY 2018-2019

Date: September 4, 2018

Subject: Recommendation that Council fund two additional position at the Office of Police Monitor in the next fiscal year (2018-2019)

Motioned by Commissioner Rebecca Webber Second by Commissioner Noel Landuyt

Whereas, the City of Austin's Office of Design and Delivery has issued recommendations for improving the processes by which the public can give feedback about the Austin Police Department,¹

Whereas, the Office of Design and Delivery has also issued recommendations for improving the Office of Police Monitor's communication with the public about trends and issues related to the Austin Police Department, and

Whereas, the Office of Design and Delivery recommended that additional staff be added to the Office of Police Monitor to implement these improvements,

The Public Safety Commission recommends that City Council fund two additional positions (senior policy analyst and community outreach specialist) in the Office of Police Monitor in next fiscal year.

The recommended positions will advance one of Council's *Priorities for Improvement: Government that Works: Condition/quality of City facilities & infrastructure and effective adoption of technology*

Vote

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 4 (Commissioners Sam Holt, Brian Haley, Michelle McCurdy, and Carol Lee)

Attest: [Staff or board member can sign]


Janet Jackson, Board Liaison,

5. 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. There is necessary training to be completed internally and externally. Once necessary training is completed we will begin to attend a monthly meeting for the next six months. The next update will be November 2018.

Austin Police Department Cite and Release in Lieu or Arrest Working Group – Commissioner Nunez

- Group formed as a result of American Freedom. Act
- Group met for a second time on August 27, 2018 at Huston Tillotson University
- There has been good engagement between APD and the Community Group
- APD has accepted numerous recommendations from the stakeholders
- Recommendations accepted must be approved by Chief Manley
- There still needs to be training for officers on how to ask for identification
- APD is to be applauded for all their efforts in coordinating community meetings and addressing the issues brought forth by the Working Group
- An extension was recently granted to extend the due date to report back to council to October 1, 2018.

6. Update on recruitment /selection of Austin Fire Chief – sponsored by Nunez & Webber

Commissioner Webber provided an update from Assistant Chief Arellano

- There were a total of 80 applicants for the Fire Chief position
- The consultant is in the process of narrowing applicants to forward to City Manager for interviewing in early October 2018
- Four panel interviews will be scheduled and one of the panel interviews will include a community rep and another panel interview will include public safety partners

Commissioner Rossmo asked if any of the applicants were internal applicants for the position.

7. One year update on non-renewal of Austin's Juvenile Curfew -

- Morgan Craven shared some of the reason there was efforts from various stakeholders groups to end the juvenile Curfew.
- In the past a 10yr old could be stopped and ticketed with a Class C misdemeanor which meant they did not go to Juvenile Center but rather experienced the same consequences as an adult
- children were having to appear in Municipal Court, pay huge fines and end up with a criminal recorded at 10yrs of age
- Most of the tickets were issued in East and Northeast Austin
- Mostly Black youth received the highest number of tickets (16%)
- The data reported was for 2years and 1,000 stops

Number of benefits from removing the Juvenile Curfew:

- Eliminated a lot youth having a criminal record at an early age
- Youth not having to pay large fines and court costs
- Caused for some of the youth to feel differently about their city
- eliminating the Curfew did not have an impact on crime (shared data from Austin Police Department)
- Capital Metro recently decided to waive the fares for youth/students bus service
- A Youth Justice Work Group was formed
- Austin became a model for others cities to follow
- City of Dallas juvenile curfew is set for review this year and a City Council member is citing the work done in Austin to be reviewed as they try to end their ordinance this year
- San Antonio recently changed their ordinance after reviewing Austin's decision.

Morgan shared a Marshall Project article that sites the work done in Austin and because of that work the city of Chattanooga has decided not to adopt a Juvenile Curfew. The model of our working group with APD included young people and that is wonderful. We have now become a model for other cities.

There questions and comments from Commissioner Rossmo and Commissioner Nunez. Do we have any data on the types of crime committed; and what were they arrested for? Nunez.

Commissioner Rossmo requested data on day verses night on number of contacts and arrests. Assistant Chief Gay committed to pull the type of data requested by both commissioners.

8. Report on gun lock for citizens provided by Austin Police Department – sponsored by Commissioner Scruggs and Webber

Commissioner Scruggs requested this update and introduced the item. In 2016 is when there began a dispensing of gun locks and since APD has engaged in distributing the gun locks Commissioner Scruggs asked for a summary on what APD had done and was planning to continue in the future.

AC Gay commented Austin Police Department made an effort to have more community activities where we could try and educate the citizens on gun safety. We handed out the locks along with brochures at various events. 412 locks have been handed out by APD and I will work on getting the most recent numbers to the board.

Scruggs-

--- Where did APD get the locks?

--- Are they grant funded or given to APD?

--- Are the locks given out at all National Night Out events? If not in the future could we be sure to give out the brochures and locks at all of the National Night Out events?

Commissioner Scruggs asked if Austin Police Department would consider maybe including the gun safety brochures in the packages the EMS Home Safety program distributes.

Commissioner Rossmo asked if it was feasible to ask licensed gun dealers to handout the gun safety brochures.

Commissioner Scruggs responded yes it is feasible and it is my understanding that most of the gun dealers are already distributing the brochure. **Commissioner Scruggs** requested an update in February 2019 on

- Where are we getting the locks (vendor)?
- How are they being dispensed?

Future Agenda Items:

- Status of Austin Firefighters sent to California
- Additional data on Juvenile Curfew (Rossmo and Nunez)
- Update on Gun Locks - February 2019. (Scruggs)
- Wildfire Readiness (Tyree)
- Sobriety Center Update (Rossmo)
- Vision Zero Update (Webber)
- Scooter Issues (Scruggs)
- Progress on Del Valle Fire Station (Landuyt)
- Update on EMS Interlocal (Gonzales)

Adjourn @ 5:50pm