



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, March 4, 2019**

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

**Rebecca Webber, Chair** called the Board Meeting to order at 4:00p.m. A brief introduction and welcome was made by Commissioner Webber to three new members: Commissioner Kathleen Hausenfluck, Commissioner Selena Alvarenga, and Executive Board Member, Rob Vires, Chief of Staff, Austin Fire Department.

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Brian Haley	Noel Landuyt
Ed Scruggs	Rebecca Gonzales
Rebecca Bernhardt	Daniela Nunez
Preston Tyree	Sam Holt
Kathleen Hausenfluck	Selena Alvarenga
Rebecca Webber	

**Board Member Absent: None**

**Staff in Attendance:**

Troy Gay, Chief of Staff, Austin Police Department  
Rob Vires, Chief of Staff, Austin Fire Department  
Jasper Brown, Chief of Staff, Austin Travis County Emergency Medical Services

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Commissioner Webber asked if there were any changes/corrections to the February 2019 minutes and hearing none she deemed the minutes approved.

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS –**

- Carey Roberts, with Greater Austin Crime Commission – commented on the upcoming FY20 Budget presentations and expressed his hopes of the Public Safety Commission and others will have an opportunity to weigh in on the budget process earlier this year.
- Carlos Leon – continue fighting evil at the new City of Austin Central Library from a security guard

- Joell McNew, President of SAFEHORNS - update on recent activities within SAFEHORN organization and a win of 20,000 donation from Tiff's Treats. A recent trip to USC campus and met with the president of the campus.
- Juliana Gonzales, Senior Director of Sexual Assaults at SAFE Alliance – presented monthly data for February 2019 on services provided by SAFE (stop abuse for everyone) to Austin/Travis County community. She shared flow chart of what happens to victims from the beginning (an outcry) to evidence collection.

### **3. Development of a contract to evaluate how reported sexual assaults, are investigated and processed** Ordered by City Council January 2019

Presenters:

Joe Silva, City Manager's Office  
Erin D' Vincent, Purchasing Office, City of Austin

Brief overview of sexual assault cases

Purpose of presentation:

Get input from Public Safety Commission and Commission on Women  
Council Resolution 20190131-077  
Resolution Scope of Work  
Vendor Requirements  
Components of evaluation  
Components of written report  
Timeline

Evaluation

- 200 cases over 7yrs or 50% of cases
- Cases examined should be diverse
- Included cases that did and did not move forward to prosecution
- Vendor may add to COA criteria
- 11 components of evaluation to be distributed to all PSC for review.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Components of written report
- not to be redacted
- findings also be provided

TIMELINE presented by Erin D'Vincent, Purchasing Office

RFI (request for information. 2-20-2019

Closed RFI - 02-27-2019 Feedback of resolution

Request for QULIFICATIONS

Beginning of April 2019

Close RFQ.MAY 2019

Complete Evaluation -mid June 2019

Memo to council - beginning August 2019

**Commissioner Bernhardt** asked if it is possible for the Women's Commission to participate in the review that applicants make. Normally we do not have others in on the review process **per Erin DVincent**

What does it look like for us (PSC) and Women's Commission to participate in this process?

Currently at this point we are bringing it forward to see if there is anything else you would like on top of the resolution (**Erin Vincent, Purchasing Department**)? **Joe Silva**, we are looking at some of the responses we have received thus far from the vendors on what they think needs to be added.

**Commissioner Bernhardt** offered a suggestion, that they clarify what is meant by adult victim. Is it over the age of 12yrs old or 18yrs old?

**Rebecca Gonzales** requested additional clarification on “participation” spelled out – is it defined by hitting all sides of community

Participation by survivors of crimes

- a. Concern it will take considerable effort to get 200 survivors to participate considering they have not had the best experiences with our public safety departments
- b. .200 cases what does that look like?

**Commissioner Webber** - what is the commitment if any from the District Attorney’s office to participate in any of this (contract for a third party to evaluate how APD evaluate, and process sexual assault cases)? **Joe Silva** - at this stage of the process we don’t have that answer.

**ACM Arellano** commented the District Attorney’s office is aware of the development process City of Austin is working on and this is something for the City of Austin to do. **Commissioner Scruggs** asked if the District Attorney’s office doesn’t get involved, would the City of Austin still proceed with the process and the response was yes the COA would still proceed.

**Commissioners Webber and Scruggs** both expressed interest in the Public Safety Commission having an opportunity to weigh in on the process on the development of the third party contract and asked if there was a timeline they were working with that would allow for this topic to come back to Public Safety Commission before being presented to city council? **ACM Arellano** commented that they would take a look at coming back with any update and possibly hearing input from Public Safety Commission and the Women’s Commission.

**4. 2018 Public Safety Stats – 2018 crime report from APD (with 5-year trend graphs and city map overlay); 2018 traffic fatalities report; 2018 report on calls for service related to emotionally disturbed persons from EMS and APD; 2018 report on distribution of gunlocks and gun safety education efforts by APD in 2018 (follow-up to sept. 2018 report on gun locks); 2018 community Paramedic program (follow-up to July 2018 presentation on CPH)**

Sponsored by Commissioners Haley and Webber

Ron MacKay presenting for APD stats

- 2018 Violent Crime –Overall, down 6% compared to 2017
- Historical Homicide Rates and 2018 Locations
- 2008 – 2018 Homicides
- Historical Rape/Sex Assault Rates and 2018 locations

- Historical Aggravated Assault Rates and 2018 Locations
- 2008-2018 Family Violence Aggravated Assaults – Numbers & Rate
- 2018 All Robberies
- Historical Auto Theft Rates and 2018 Locations
- Communications
- Highway Enforcement
- 2014- 2018 Traffic Fatalities
- Emotionally Disturbed Persons (EDP)
- Sobering Center

Questions and discussion from Public Safety Commissioners on the crime report:

- Request to provide breakdown on traffic fatalities (2014-2018)
- Emotionally distributed calls
- Sobering Center (Sept 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018)
- Comment/question on the report showing a lot of activity in the Rundberg area  
Are there any grants received for this area?
- EDP (Emotionally disturbed person) calls how do we define that? Is it something the officer calls or is it called in?
- Is the decrease in traffic fatalities related to Uber & Lyft being back in Austin?
- People being dropped off at Sobering Center, is it saving time vs booking someone at the county jail?
- Is there any calculations on the cost savings to the city from having the Sobering Center open?
- How does someone get home from the Sobering Center?
- Is there a limit to the number of times someone can be taken to the Sobering Center?

Chief of Staff, Troy Gay and Ron MacKay responded to the questions from the commissioners.

## **5. Follow-up to February 4, 2019 presentation from the Austin/Travis County Inter-Agency Sexual Assault Team (ISAT) Sponsored by Commissioners Haley and Webber**

Beverly Mathews and Darla Gay were in attendance to speak to the follow up information they had provided to the commissioners at this meeting. The follow up was requested at the February 2019 Public Safety Committee meeting.

The handout included an updated summary on obtaining victim feedback to measure impact, success and new directions from ISAT.

There were no questions and one comment **from Commissioner Tyree** who stated we needed both organizations (ISAT and SARRT), and hopefully they will find a way to come together to make it work.

There was discussion and questions on concerning the Sexual Assault Case Tracking Form that is no longer used by law enforcement. APD, Chief of Staff Troy Gay commented that currently the form is not being used after 2006 and APD is currently working with ISAT on a new data collection process.

**6. Discussion on Plan for Public Safety Commission to make final budget recommendations at May 6 2019 meeting** Sponsored by Commissioners Haley and Webber

Commissioner Webber advised the board to list/mention some of the things they would like to see from public safety on things they need this budget cycle. Commissioner Gonzales commented she would like to request that the budget review would actually include budget numbers or at least some estimates this year.

**7. Future Agenda Items** – there was discussions of topics for the budget presentation at the April 2019 meeting

- Victim Services (Commissioner Tyree)
- Hotel Occupancy Tax and support for public safety (Commissioner Haley)
- Potential of the 2.5% cap from legislature (Commissioner Scruggs)
- How is the City of Austin Crime Lab being funded (Commissioner Bernhardt)

**Adjournment @ 5:25pm**