



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, December 7, 2009**

**The Public Safety Commission convened in a regular meeting on Monday, December 7, 2009 at City Hall, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.**

**Austin Police Department Assistant Chief-Chief of Staff, David Carter, called the Board Meeting to order at 4:07p.m.**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Aman Bandali  
Ramey Ko  
Michael Lauderdale  
Michael Levy  
Kim Rossmo  
Moses Saldana Jr.

**Staff in Attendance:**

Austin Police Department Chief of Staff, David Carter  
Austin Fire Department Chief of Staff, Harry Evans  
Austin-Travis County EMS Chief of Staff, James Shamard  
Boards and Commissions Liaison, Candy Hinkle  
Staff Support Liaison, Lee Davila

**1. INTRODUCTIONS**

- a. Chief of Staff, David Carter called the meeting to order with a brief introduction of staff that was in attendance.
- b. Introductions of commissioners began with Michael Levy:
  - Michael Levy first became involved in public safety in 1976 while serving on the oversight committee for the Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services Department.
  - Moses Saldana has been involved in public safety matters since the 1970's while assisting in safety concerns on train accidents.
  - Ramey Ko is an attorney in Austin who specializes in Domestic Violence issues.
  - Michael Lauderdale is a professor at the University of Texas who has performed extensive research related to Public Safety issues, and most importantly the Austin Police Department.
  - Kim Rossmo served for 23 years with the Vancouver Police Department in Canada before beginning his work at Texas State University with a focus on Criminal Investigations and the geography of crime
  - Aman Bandali is a local developer who has lived in the Austin area for 20 years. During this time, he has become involved in public safety matters.
- c. Each public safety department's Chief of Staff was introduced to the Commission along with Candy Hinkle who serves as the Boards and Commissions Liaison.

**2. DEFINE THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION**

The purpose of the Commission was read as is defined in the City Code:

- a. The Public Safety Commission will serve as an Advisory body to the city council on all budgetary and policy matters concerning public safety, including matters related to the Austin Police Department, the Austin Fire Department, and the Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services Department. Make recommendations on matters related to long-range comprehensive planning initiatives, access to and expenditure of state and federal grant funds, and other related public safety matters.

**3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. Matt Simpson introduced himself to the commissioners. He is currently the policy strategist for the State American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) affiliate.

**4. ADOPTION OF THE COMMISSION BY-LAWS**

The standard template for by-laws as recommended by the City’s Audit and Finance Committee was presented. Commission Member Ko proposed a change to Article 8, Section A to read as such:

- a. Each committee shall consist of at least three board members appointed by the chair, staff member, or by the director of the Austin Police Department, Austin Fire Department, or the Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services Department.
- b. Member Ko added that the adoption should include the prior correction to Article 8, Section A. Action adopting the Public Safety Commission’s by-laws was approved on Commission Member Levy’s motion, Board Member Saldana’s second on a 6-0 vote.

**5. ELECTION OF THE COMMISSION OFFICERS**

Election of the Chair

- a. Action adopting the Public Safety Commission’s Chairperson as Michael Lauderdale was approved on Commission Member Levy’s motion, Board Member Ko’s second on a 6-0 vote.

Election of the Vice Chair

- a. Action adopting the Public Safety Commission’s Vice Chairperson as Michael Levy was approved on Commission Member Bandali’s motion, Board Member Saldana’s second on a 6-0 vote.

**6. CURRENT EFFORTS OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS**

- a. Austin Police Department – Austin Regional Intelligence Center Privacy Policy Update.
  - Austin Police Department Chief of Staff, David Carter, made himself available for any questions relating to the Austin Regional Intelligence Center. He stated that a presentation could be made at the January meeting.
  - John Bush, Executive Director for *Texans for Accountable Government* spoke to his concerns related to the creation of the Fusion Center. His concerns were related to the misuse of facial and voice recognition software amongst Fusion Centers. John Bush would like to see a privacy policy oversight committee to help eliminate concerns from citizens over privacy issues. John Bush stated that he would gather supplemental information to provide to the commission by the end of the week.
  - Chief Of Staff David Carter addressed the commission in regards to privacy concerns. He further explained that the Fusion Center currently being developed in Austin will work in conjunction with Travis County, Williamson County and Hays County as well as the Round Rock Police Department and San Marcos Police Department. Chief of Staff Carter expressed his desire to work in conjunction with John Bush, members from the ACLU, and additional stakeholders of the community over the privacy policy. The Austin Regional Intelligence Center will serve as a model

**7. DISCUSS SUGGESTED AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

- a. Chief of Staff Carter will provide an in depth discussion on the Austin Regional Intelligence Center should sufficient information be provided. If no new information is available, Chief of Staff Carter will relay this information to the chair.

- b. The meeting date for the next meeting will be Monday, January 4, 2010 at 4:00pm as stated in the by-laws.
- c. Candy Hinkle stated that the Departments will assist in what items will be present on the agenda with input from the commission members.
- d. Commission Member Levy stated that he would like to hear from the Department Directors from the public safety departments in regards to those issues that are pressing for each department. A briefing on critical issues was suggested due to time constraints from the approaching holiday season. Commission Member Levy also stated that hearing from the public safety association presidents after the department director's presentation would assist the Public Safety Commission in beginning their discussions on critical challenges of the departments, budgetary short falls in 2009 and "hot topic issues." Commission Member Levy asked that department directors and association presidents to speak about the challenges as they saw them. This information should be presented with no handouts and no slides and not as a detailed overview. Commission Member Levy stated that these topics should lead the agenda and address challenges facing the community in the arenas that the public safety agencies have responsibility for.
- e. Citizen, Debbie Russell, approached the commission with a desire to make suggestions for the approaching agenda. Debbie Russell suggested an in depth look into budget cuts, guidelines for blood draws and evidence collections from the Austin Police Department, texting and driving ban, and a possible later meeting time and change in location.
- f. Commission Member Ko wanted to look at the possibility of having alternative site locations and times for meetings. Staff was directed to prepare a memo on the cost effectiveness and practicality of alternative meeting sites. This topic was requested to be on the January 4, 2010 agenda.
- g. Citizen, Katie Brewer, also requested that the commission consider an alternative time to conduct future meetings.
- h. Commission Member Ko wanted to have a brief discussion over the collaborative effort of possibly working with the Commission on Immigrant Affairs. Commission Member Ko would approach the commission and provide an update at the January 4, 2010 meeting.
- i. Commission Member Ko spoke about a training officer by Police Monitor Cliff Brown for those new members being appointed to the Citizens Review Panel. It was suggested that Public Safety Commission members may want to consider taking this training as well. Commission Member Ko requested that this item be placed on the January 4, 2010 agenda.
- j. Commission Member Levy suggested having fewer items on the agenda that will maximize discussions. Also suggested was the possibility of adding time limits to agenda items. Commission Member Ko and Commission Member Bandali also agreed that adding time limits to the agenda would assist in moving the discussion along without having to rush through items.
- k. Candy Hinkle stressed the fact that staff will draft the agenda based off of discussions from the commission members. A draft agenda will be provided to the chair by staff a week after the meeting.
- l. Commission Member Saldana stated that he would like to see a future discussion over the Neighborhood Watch Program.

**8. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

There were no further questions or answers.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Lauderdale adjourned the meeting at 5:18 p.m. without objection.