



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Monday, October 4, 2010**

The Public Safety Commission convened in a regular meeting on Monday, October 4, 2010 at City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Michael Lauderdale, called the Board Meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Aman Bandali
Sam Holt
Michael Lauderdale
Kim Rossmo
Moses Saldana

Board Members not in Attendance:

Michael Levy
Ramey Ko

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. The minutes for the regular meeting on 08/07/2010 were approved on Commission Member Bandali's motion, Commission Member Holt's second on a 4-0 vote with Commission Members Ko, Levy and Rossmo not present.

2. Citizen Communications

- a. John Bush suggested that the commission consider placing citizen communications after items on the agenda. He also added the Texans for Accountable Government wanted to honor Commission Member Ko as the "People's Champion" recipient.

4. Briefings (*this item was taken out of order and discussed before Agenda Item 3*)

- a. APD Chief of Staff David Carter gave a briefing on the University of Texas shooting incident. The investigation is ongoing so very little information was given.
- b. APD Chief of Staff David Carter also stated that the Austin Regional Intelligence Center was projected to open in October. However, December 15, 2010 will serve as the official open date of the center.

3. Discussion and Possible Action Items

- a. APD Lieutenant Norris McKenzie addressed the efforts and successes of the Joint Juvenile Gang Taskforce and stated that he is looking for assistance in making the grant coordinator position into a full-time position. Chief Ernest Riojas the from Austin Independent School District Police Department further elaborated on the need to fund the grant funded positions

that specialize in the assistance of juveniles involved in gang activity and approaching the problems from a prevention standpoint. Gregory Thrash, of the Drug Enforcement Agency, addressed the structural and tactical changes in dealing with drug cartels and how they are now targeting small town elected officials. Royce Curtain, from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) stated that they are seeing the same activity as the DEA. Royce Curtain further went on to state that shared information is the best way to deal with cartels. Texas Department Public Safety Representative Tom Ruocco stated that they are also seeing the struggles happening in Mexico and is looking onto what it means for Austin which serves as a transportation hub for the drug cartels.

1. John Bush spoke to this item stating that drug prohibition actually increases crime and that legalization/decriminalization would help solve the gang problem.
 2. Pete Eyre spoke to this item and how governments create a black market for drug items when they deem a substance illegal and that programs such as DARE are unproductive.
 3. Heather Fazio spoke to this item and questioned the information sharing process as it relates to the Austin Regional Intelligence Center and the Austin Independent School District Police Department's databases for gang activity. Also stated was that the DEA is a failed federal agency.
- b. AFD Assistant Chief Matt Orta, Steve Stewart, President, Austin/Travis County Employees Association, and Ali Mozbar, Consulting Engineer, Transportation Department gave a briefing on the Traffic Signal Preemption Project. Critical developments included the 311 protocol and finalizing the system by the end of October. The task force is also finalizing the criteria that define a critical intersection. The Transportation Department began testing all of the Opticom devices with completion slated for the first part of October.

5. Adjournment