



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, July 2, 2012**

**The Public Safety Commission convened in a regular meeting on Monday, July 2, 2012 at City Hall, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.**

**Chair Michael Lauderdale, called the Board Meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Kent Anschutz  
Sam Holt  
Ramey Ko  
Michael Lauderdale  
Michael Levy

**Board Members not in Attendance:**

Kim Rossmo

**1. Approval of Minutes**

- a. The minutes for the regular meeting on 06/04/2012 were approved on Commissioner Anschutz's motion, Commissioner Holt's second on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Ko not present.<sup>1</sup>

**2. Citizen Communications**

- a. Heather Fazio, Austin Citizen, spoke regarding misallocation of police resources and discussed a burglary of vehicle she recently experienced.
- b. Sabino Renteria, Austin Citizen, spoke on behalf of the East Austin Coalition and discussed ongoing drug problems in East Austin, particularly at the 12<sup>th</sup> St/Chicon St intersection.
- c. Lee Sherman, President of the Kealing Neighborhood Association, discussed an expansion of the "Quality of Life" city ordinances to parts of East Austin and the Kealing neighborhood.

**3. Discussion and Possible Action Items**

- a. EMS Budget Presentation – presented by Chief of Staff James Shamard.

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<sup>1</sup> Commissioner Ko arrived late for the meeting and was not present for this vote.

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- b. Budget Discussions – Public Safety Association Presidents
- Wayne Vincent, Austin Police Association president, spoke regarding manpower issues and adequate “backfill” funding.
  - Bob Nicks, Austin Fire Association president, spoke on concerns that Wildland Fire needs were not included in the budget, a lack of a fire station bond item regarding the Loop 360 Corridor Fire Station coming from the bond committee, and the 4-person staffing initiative. Chief Nicks also discussed lack of a Wildland Fire Division.
  - Tony Marquardt, Austin/Travis County EMS Association president, spoke on budget unmet needs, particularly “demand units” and the staffing needed to cover the EMS response area and maintain response times. Marquardt also discussed the EMS hiring process.
- c. EMS Staffing Configuration and Reduction of EMS response times – presented by Chief of Staff James Shamard.
- d. Sit and Lie Ordinance and Enhanced Prosecution for the 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Chicon Area – presented by APD Assistant Chief Patrick Ockletree and Assistant City Attorney David Douglas. Also present were Court Administrator Pete Valdez from the Downtown Community Court, Assistant City Attorney Andy Garbe and Lee Sherman from the Kealing Neighborhood Association.
- Mr. Douglas clarified that the current sit/lie ordinance applies only in the bounded area covered by the Downtown Community Court, and any expansion beyond those boundaries would necessitate those citations going to regular municipal court. Assistant Chief Ockletree, Commissioner Ko and Commissioner Holt expressed doubts that expansion of this ordinance would significantly impact the reduction of crime in the 12<sup>th</sup> St and Chicon area, and might in fact create further hardships for both homeowners and the homeless, and for obtaining social services for offenders.
- There was a request from Commissioner Ko that Pete Valdez provide statistics on how often citizens are receiving citations in conjunction with other more serious offenses in the August meeting. Commissioner Ko also requested that community homeless advocates be invited to the August meeting to speak on the issue. Commissioner Lauderdale requested that a representative from the Travis County District Attorney’s office attend the August meeting to provide input, and that EMS provide information on the services they provide in the affected area.
- e. Dispatch of AFD on Medical Calls – presented by AFD Chief of Staff Harry Evans, Medical Director Dr. Paul Hinchey, and EMS Chief Ernie Rodriguez.
- Discussion regarding the Dispatch Review Project. Backup material archived.
- Commissioner Anschutz and Commissioner Levy requested that this discussion item be added to the August meeting agenda with greater detailed information to determine if the correct emergency response is occurring by dispatching both AFD and EMS to medical calls.
- f. Citizen Communication related to Discussion/Action Items
- Citizen Richard Troxell, president of House the Homeless, provided comments related to agenda item 3.d. Mr. Troxell voiced his concurrence with Commissioner Ko that the Sit and Lie ordinance would negatively impact the homeless.

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**4. Briefings and Updates**

No briefings occurred due to time constraints. Commissioner Lauderdale stated that Item 4.c would be tabled due to the fact that the PERF Patrol Utilization Study had not yet been presented to City Council by the City Manager's office.

**5. Possible Agenda Items for August Meeting**

- a. Commissioners requested that the Sit and Lie ordinance discussion be added to the August meeting agenda for further discussion.
- b. Commissioners requested that the discussion regarding the dispatch of AFD on medical calls be added to the August meeting agenda for further discussion.

**6. Adjournment**

- a. Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Ko, second by Commissioner Holt. Meeting adjourned.