



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, July 1, 2013**

**The Public Safety Commission convened in a regular meeting on Monday, July 1, 2013 at City Hall, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.**

**Chair Michael Lauderdale, called the Board Meeting to order at 4:04 PM.**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Kim Rossmo  
Michael Lauderdale  
Reynaldo Moreno  
Ramey Ko (present beginning at 4:10 PM)  
Sam Holt

**Board Members not in Attendance:**

Michael Levy  
Kent Anschutz

**1. Approval of Minutes**

- a. The minutes for the regular meeting on 6/03/2013 were approved on Commissioner Rossmo's motion, Commissioner Holt's second and a 4-0 vote with Vice Chair Levy and Commissioners Anschutz and Ko not present.

**2. Citizen Communications**

Susan Reed, of the Anderson Mill Neighborhood Association and an APD Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association Board Member, addressed the Commission regarding the Austin Police Department's FY14 budget requests, offering support for additional sworn and civilian personnel to combat contraband, human trafficking and cartel activity, to address traffic, mental health issues within the community, at risk youth and property crimes and overall issues associated with the growth Austin has and continues to experience. Ms. Reed also supported the Commission's desire to look at comprehensive public safety funding for the Department. Chair Lauderdale summarized the Commission's examination of budget issues for each of the three public safety departments and explained that the August meeting would focus on making recommendations to the Council about those findings.

**3. Discussion and Possible Action Items**

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a. Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Departmental Budget Presentation by Emergency Medical Services Chief James Shamard began by introducing Assistant Director of Administration and Finance Kerri Lane. Ms. Lane remarked that she looks forward to working with the Public Safety Commission on EMS related matters in the future. Chief Shamard presented the Commission with a breakdown of operational expenditures and the process of assigning calls for service to EMS. He also reviewed key performance indicators, including the resources required to achieve strong key performance measure results. Commissioner Ko requested clarification about the criteria required for a call to be classified as a life threatening call. Chief Shamard responded with an explanation about the standards set forth by the international medical priority dispatch protocol. Chief Shamard offered results from the City of Austin's Citizen Survey regarding respondent satisfaction. He also discussed the challenges associated with interpreting the survey data because not all respondents had utilized EMS. As a result, EMS now conducts in house surveys about patient satisfaction. Chief Shamard spoke to the anticipated increased costs associated with health insurance, fleet fuel and maintenance costs for EMS vehicles, medical and drug supply challenges, civil service implementation, replacement of capital items and overtime for special events. He also touched on the practice of charging special event vendors for EMS response and the process by which those fees are then remitted to the City's general fund and clarified questions about staffing of County ambulances. Chief Shamard shared the revenue forecast, details of the bond election results that affect EMS projects, unmet service demands including the importance of continuing education for sworn personnel, requests for and the purpose of additional sworn and civilian staff. He also stressed the importance of public outreach efforts to teach lifesaving skills and to establish ongoing relationships with patients who frequently and chronically utilize EMS for ongoing health conditions. Chief Shamard then turned to the Travis County budget forecast and their cost drivers including changes to service in East Travis County, Pflugerville and Bee Cave and cost sharing agreement between the City of Austin and Travis County. Commissioner Moreno proposed a question about the cost of civil service and its division between City and County. Chief Shamard presented changes to revenue and outlined the process for collecting revenue and the funding's ultimate destination. Both Commissioner Ko and Chair Lauderdale presented questions about estimates for the cost of uninsured citizens. Chair Lauderdale requested results from EMS analysis of the costs of uninsured patients. Chief Evans also presented information about EMS's use of analysis to appropriately staff geographic locations and predict future calls loads. Commissioner Moreno and Commissioner Ko touched on the importance of community outreach, particularly to non-English speakers. Vice Chair Rossmo inquired about data to reflect workload change over time. Commissioner Ko brought up the issue of employee morale and what budget resources would be appropriate to apply to that issue. Chief Shamard spoke about the need for new crews and additional personnel to offer staff needed downtime. He also stressed the importance of getting paramedics the medical equipment and personnel support needed to maintain a healthy morale. Chair Lauderdale cited an article in the Austin American Statesman about the use of alcohol by EMS staff and asked for feedback from Chief Shamard on the matter. In response, Chief explained the EMS drug and alcohol testing policy and his voiced absolute confidence in EMS personnel's ability to respond professionally to any call. He also discussed the feedback he's received from EMS personnel about their departmental attitudes and morale. Commissioner Ko requested an update on the discussion that occurred between the City and County regarding

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reimbursement practices and possible privatization of services. Chief Shamard assured the Commission that he believes that the interlocal agreement between the City and County has now been fully vetted and staff are comfortable moving forward. Chair Lauderdale requested a map and accompanying information to better understand where the most frequent users of EMS are located and the characteristics of that population. Chief Shamard agreed and stated that those are the initial goals of the Community Health Paramedic Program.

In a separate discussion, Chief Evans gave a brief overview about the fire deaths in Arizona. He also updated the Commission about fires in our area and current fire conditions and preparatory work. Chair Lauderdale asked about increasing fire danger based on the current trends. Commissioner Ko expressed support of AFD oversight and Commission Holt talked with Chief Shamard about fuel mitigation efforts.

**5. Discussion Regarding Potential Future Agenda Items**

Resolution of Appreciation for Karen Jackson and University of Texas Chief David Carter

AFD Unmet/Budget Needs

Budget Resolution Regarding Early Intervention Youth Programs

**6. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Ko, seconded by Commissioner Holt. Meeting adjourned at 5:08 PM.