



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, December 2, 2013**

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

Chair Kim Rossmo, called the Board Meeting to order at 4:06 PM.

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Kim Rossmo  
Mike Levy  
Michael Lauderdale  
Reynaldo Moreno  
Ramey Ko  
Kent Anschutz

**Board Members not in Attendance:**

Sam Holt

**1. Approval of Minutes**

- The minutes for the regular meeting on 11/4/2013 were approved on Commissioner Michael Lauderdale's motion, Commissioner Mike Levy's second and a 6-0 unanimous vote.

**2. Citizen Communications**

- **Edward Sledge** – Distracted Driving – He is concerned about cell phone and other digital devices being used while driving. He provided the three elements of Distracted Driving 101. Mr. Sledge would like to see a ban on cell phone use while driving.
- **Mary Arnett** – APD Staffing and Patrol – She is the president of the citizen lead safety partnership that work with neighborhood organizations. She is concerned with all the vacancies.
- **Lisa Hinley** – Restore Rundberg Project – She is the Chair of the North Lamar Neighborhood team. She would like the committee to look at ways to take some of the destruction/peripheral activities off of APD.

*For more information on the Public Safety Commission, please contact Austin Police Department Chief of Staff, David Carter at (521) 974-5030. The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 4 days before the meeting date. Please call Tara Long at the Austin Police Department, at (512) 974-5747, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.*

- **Mr. Johnson** – Distracted Driving – He strongly supports a recommendation on this that would make the streets of Austin safer for bicyclist, pedestrians and vehicle drivers. He supports to expand the existing texting law.
- **Mario Cantu** – Onion Creek Flooding – Austin Neighborhood Council has created a subcommittee regarding the flooding in Onion Creek. Some of the areas this committee addressed were impervious cover, building in flood zones, helicopters, and alert systems; gauges and inferred video, and a team to make visual contact if other options were to fail. With this recent event they would like to know; what took place, how it took place, how to fix the issue, with an action/solution to the event. Recommends Fire and other agencies reach out to the

### 3. Discussion and Possible Action Items

#### a. *Overview of Onion Creek Flooding and Response and Recovery Efforts – AFD Chief of Staff Harry Evans*

- There will be a follow up review when all the information is complete. The full analysis is still on going.
- Fire is providing the follow up through the AFD's perspective but this was a multi-agency project along with other City of Austin departments and Travis county.
- From the Fire Departments perspective these are the questions and items we need to address:
  - i. Are the rescue boats in the right place based on what we have seen from this event?
  - ii. Do we have enough boats?
  - iii. Do we need to staff our department similar to red flag days
  - iv. Is there a better way to predict what that extreme weather is going to do?
  - v. Find ways to promote participation for the Reverse 911 call system
  - vi. Benchmark with other cities to determine best practices for area wide flooding
  - vii. Ready, Set, Go material for flooding; similar to the fire packet
- Captain Matt Rush will be in charge of the After Action Report; this will include verbiage, maps and timelines
- The group discussed the issues and different avenues for the Reverse 911
- February Fire will provide timeline for the multi-agency presentation, should occur in March or April

#### b. *Ending Homelessness in Austin – Ann Howard, Executive Director of the Ending Community Homeless Coalition*

- The data does not support a rise in chronic homelessness; since 2008 the data has been on the decline.
- The discussion covered where the homeless came from and why they are homeless.
- A brief overview of HUD requirements.

#### c. *Call Load Involving Persons with Mental Health Conditions – Assistant Police Chief Brian Manley*

*For more information on the Public Safety Commission, please contact Austin Police Department Chief of Staff, David Carter at (512) 974-5030. The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 4 days before the meeting date. Please call Tara Long at the Austin Police Department, at (512) 974-5747, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.*

- Chief Manley went over the statistics of the calls and volume of the calls involving Mental Health patients.
  - With this analysis it shows that the number of calls downtown regarding the mental health issues is proportionate to the area that APD services.
  - Downtown is less than 1% of the geography for APDs responding area
  - d. Staffing/Organizational Studies for EMS Service Delivery – EMS Chief Ernesto Rodriguez**
    - Chief Rodriguez suggests we look into consultants that are used to looking into large urban systems.
    - EMS is designing the study this fiscal year with any issues/budget needs and progression will be submitted in April 2014.
  - e. Proposed Distracted Driving Legislation – Bianca Bentzin of the City of Austin Legal Department**
    - Postponed discussion until February.
  - f. Call Center 9-1-1 Staffing – Marcia Brooks, APD Communications Manager**
    - Ms. Brooks discussed the service levels, call volumes and the rating scale.
    - The call center has increased in bodies but has also increased in their workload.
    - Chair Rossmo has requested a business report. APD will be coming back early next year with the report.
  - g. Taskforce Volunteer Opportunity: Transition Plan for Boards and Commissions – Public Safety Commission**
    - The commission is looking for a volunteer for this taskforce.
- 4. Discussion Regarding Potential Future Agenda Items**
- Commissioners Future Agenda Items for February:
    - i. Proposed Distracted Driving Legislation – Bianca Bentzin
    - ii. Wildfire update
    - iii. False confessions
    - iv. Overview of crimes with the LGBT
    - v. Traffic Fatalities
    - vi. Social Services - Dr. Ziebell of Brackenridge
    - vii. Update on progress of Flood Report – (5 minutes)
    - viii. Brief regarding Rundberg
    - ix. Call Center 9-1-1 staffing Report
  - Have all PowerPoints and documents the Thursday before the meeting.

## 5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Lauderdale, seconded by Commissioner Levy. Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.