



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 5, 2014**

The Public Safety Commission convened in a regular meeting on Monday, May 5, 2014 at City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Kim Rossmo, called the Board Meeting to order at 4:12 PM.

Board Members in Attendance:

Kim Rossmo
Mike Levy
Reynaldo Moreno
Sam Holt
Kent Anschutz

Board Members not in Attendance:

Ramey Ko
Michael Lauderdale

1. Approval of Minutes

- The minutes for the regular meeting on 04/07/2014 were approved on Commissioner Moreno's motion, Commissioner Holt's second and a 5-0 unanimous vote.

2. Citizen Communications

- *All citizen communication was offered on specific agenda items and is documented under the respective headings below.*

3. Discussion and Possible Action Items

a. Public Input on 2014 South by Southwest (SXSW) – Special Events Program Manager Bill Manno

- Bill Manno spoke about the City's ongoing efforts to review and gather feedback about SXSW and related events. He expressed appreciation for city staff's work and for the citizens who attending the meeting to voice their thoughts about the event.
- David King, resident of Zilker neighborhood, spoke about his concerns regarding the impact that large-scale events have on neighborhood public safety resources and offered funding and reimbursement proposals for for-profit events.

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- Caitlin Whittington, speaking on behalf of SXSW, voiced support and commitment to working with the city, the public and private stakeholders to ensure safety during SXSW and to continue efforts to make the event a cultural and economic boon.
- b. *After Action Report – October 31, 2013 Floods – APD Assistant Chief Brian Manley, AFD Assistant Chief Harry Evans and EMS Assistant Chief James Shamard***
- Assistant Chief Brian Manley provided the Commission with a presentation of APD’s After Action Report including a timeline of events, the implementation of APD’s tactical response plan, aide provided to area residents, an overview of efforts to secure the area in order to maximize safety as residents returned after the flooding, a summary of challenges faced along with measures that have been taken to address some of those difficulties and long term plans for emergency services.
 - Assistant Chief Harry Evans provided the Commission with a presentation of AFD’s After Action Report including information on AFD call load, rescue actions, the coordination and challenges that occurred at various incident command centers and the status for corrective steps that have since been taken, future emergency operation plans, and a list of additional resources that will be requested during the budget process. President Bob Nicks also commented on the need for additional resources including rescue boats.
 - Assistant Chief Jasper Brown provided the Commission with a presentation of EMS’s After Action report including an overview of the event, EMS call load, EMS evacuation activity, the coordination and challenges faced at each of the incident command posts, the resources utilized, an overview of both general and sheltering operations, post-flood efforts, damage to EMS stations and equipment, and long term emergency response planning.
 - Mr. Cantu spoke about the importance of emergency planning efforts for future situations.
- c. *911 Communication Report – APD Commander Julie O’Brien***
- Commander O’Brien spoke about the storm and flooding timeline, call volume and its impact, staffing and resource needs at the time of the storm, notification efforts and challenges, and emergency preparedness planning recommendations for future events including interdepartmental collaboration for communications personnel.
- d. *Austin Fire Department/Austin Water Utility Memo of Understanding Recommendation – Commissioner Reynaldo Moreno***
- The Commissioner passed the following recommendation on a 5-0 vote after Commissioner Moreno’s motion and Vice Chair Levy’s second: It is recognized that professionally prescribed fires are a natural, ecologically sound method for reducing hazardous wildfire fuels and thus protecting communities, habitat and wildlife from extreme fires. These fires naturally contain a significant level of risk that can and must be managed by the surrounding area's professional fire service. In the last few years there have been several incidents in the country where agencies whose primary roles are not firefighting and fire protection have attempted vegetative fuel

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mitigation efforts that have ignited major fires resulting in significant loss of lives and property. A recent one in Colorado resulted in the loss of lives, homes and several thousand acres of forest. In addition, for a professional fire service the responsibility for "controlled burns" also provides an excellent training platform for professional firefighters to practice the complex skills necessary to combat a wildfire. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Austin Public Safety Commission that the Austin Fire Department have the operational control of all prescribed fire operations within the boundaries of the City of Austin.

4. Discussion Regarding Potential Future Agenda Items

- An overview of the contributing factors that lead to the October 31, 2013 flood
- Resource needs of the 911 call center/communications
- Trail Security Initiative

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Vice Chair Levy, seconded by Vice Chair Holt. Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.