



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, July 2, 2018**

**The Public Safety Commission convened a meeting Monday, July 2, 2018 at City Hall 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.**

**Chair, Rebecca Webber** called the Board Meeting to order at 4:00p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Rebecca Webber, Chair	Daniela Nunez
Carol Lee	Noel Landuyt
Rebecca Gonzales	Sam Holt
Michelle McCurdy	Ed Scruggs
Kim Rossmo	Preston Tyree

Absent - Commissioner Brian Haley

**Staff in Attendance:**

Troy Gay, Assistant Chief, Austin Police Department  
Andy Hofmeister, Assistant Chief, Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Chair Webber informed the board the minutes only needed to be voted for approval if a board member found an error in the minutes and requested correction, then a vote would be taken to approve the minutes with the correction. Webber asked if there were any corrections to the minutes, hearing none no vote was required. The minutes were deemed approved.

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS –**

- **Carlos Leon – Fighting Municipal evils and City of Austin Open Records Department**
- **Maria Emerson – Item 8 – Community Policing**

**3. Monthly Stats from Public Safety Departments** – Monthly stats from public safety departments – authorized strength by rank, vacancies by rank, overtime hours by rank, call volume by Council District, response times by council District - sponsored by Commissioners Landuyt and Webber

**Commissioner Webber** opened the floor for discussion and **Commissioner Lee** requested clarification on the reimbursement overtime for Austin Police Department and AC Gay committed to get more information to her concerning the breakdown of overtime. Second question was on promotional testing in February 2018 for Medic II; will that pull from Medic I rank? Assistant Chief Hofmeister, yes it will put from the Medic I. Additional questions from Commissioner Lee on EMS response times in District 1 and 2? AC Hofmeister commented he couldn't answer to the specifics but would get back with her on the times. **Commissioner Holt** – how has not having a contract affected the overtime budget? **Commissioner Rossmo** – commented on when assessing something you need to compare it to something. It would be more helpful to us if you had a graph where we could see trends and offered to share some examples he just finished working on with another agency outside of the meeting if they were interested. There were questions from **Commissioner Scruggs** concerning response times for Fire Department that were on hold until Assistant Chief Davis returns.

#### **4. Public Safety Commission to nominate a member to serve on the APD Equity Assessment Working Group and the Austin Police Department Cite in Lieu of Arrest Working Group**

**Commissioner Webber** introduced this item and asked Assistant Chief Gay to elaborate on the purpose of each working group. Per AC Gay the Equity Assessment Working Group:

- will meet once a month for 4-6 months
- will utilize an Equity Toolkit to review Austin Police Department policies and programs with an equity lens
- group's makeup will include the Police Monitor, PSC board member, and a rep from several community groups (approximately 12) as well as Austin Police officers.

**Commissioner Webber** asked if anyone was interested in serving on this working group. **Commissioner Tyree** indicated he was interested by raising his hand and no one else indicated they were interested so Webber nominated Commissioner Tyree and Commissioner Rossmo second

**VOTE:**

**For: Unanimous (10 in attendance)**

**Against: 0**

**Absent: 1 (Commissioner Brian Haley)**

The second working group presented to the board was the Cite in Lieu of Arrest Working Group. **Assistant Chief Gay** shared with the board this group came about as the result of a resolution from council several weeks earlier. This group will review policies on when cite and release is available to the officers on scene. Per **AC Gay**, we recognize it has been a disparate impact on people of color in regards to cite and release. This group would have no more than two meetings for the next two months (July and August 2018). The purpose is to review and offer some type of policy change. The group will consists of some Austin Police officers, two Public Safety Commissioner board members and approximately 18 reps from different advocacy groups that may be interested.

Question from **Commissioner Holt**, what type of crimes that would fall under the Cite in Lieu of an arrest policy? **Commissioner Gonzales** asked the amount of time the group would meet and how long?

**Commissioner Webber** opened the floor for nominations. Commissioner Nunez and Lee indicated their interest in serving on the working group. Commissioner Webber motioned to nominate Nunez and Lee to serve on the Cite and Release Working Group; Commissioner Tyree seconds the motion.

**VOTE**

**For: Unanimous (10 present)**

**Against: 0**

**Absent: Commissioner Brian Haley**

**5. Community paramedic program report on HOST, hospital re-admissions, pop-up clinics, and psychiatric services – sponsored by Landuyt, Nunez and Holt**

Andy Hofmeister, Assistant Chief with EMS presented to the PSC board on the EMS Community Health Paramedic Program: Update to the Public Safety Commission

Assistant Chief Hofmeister presented to the PSC board and stated that there are 9FTEs (Fulltime Employees) assigned to the Community Health Paramedic Program. The provided services to the homeless population by going to the actual locations where there are homeless people living in an effort to provide them with some type of medical care. The medical care can provide referrals to hospitals, clinics and HOST member, etc....

The Community Health Care focus remains the same, and that is to continue to develop methods of delivering medical care and service that improves the health and wellbeing of the patient, while attempting to increase efficiency and reduce cost. There are various programs like:

- Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST)
- Street Med
- Opioid Overdose Response
- Collaborative Care Center
  - o Provides support to field staff (HOST, CHP & Medic Units) that can facilitate rapid navigation to services and linkages to various agencies and providers
- Pop Up Resource Clinic (PURC)
  - o Delivering various critical services out into different areas of the community to help provide better health care
- Ongoing projects and initiative target the incarcerated populations; remote medical monitoring and working with Dell Med Residency Partnership to possibly provide resident physicians to work alongside the Community Health Program to deliver community based medical care.

There were questions and comments from the board:

- How long will it take to add additional paramedics? (**Landuyt**)
- Do you have any matrixes to go along with the presentations? (**Gonzales**)
- Are there any cites similar in size to Austin that are currently using a matrix? (**Webber**)
- Is there an interlocal between CPH and Dell Medical Residency? (**Lee**)
- How long do POP UP Clinics stay in place and how is it advertised? (**Lee**)

- Could community members/residents actually call and request the HOST team to come out to their neighborhood? (Nunez)

**6. Austin Travis County Sexual Assault Response and Resource Team community Needs Assessment** – sponsored by Commissioner Tyree and Webber

- Kristen Lenau and Liz Donegan, from SAFE Austin

**Commissioner Webber** introduced the presenters and invited Kristen and Liz to begin. Kristen began the presentation on SARRT (Sexual Assault Response and Resource Team) Needs Assessment over last two years. SARRT decided to complete an assessment to help identify some service gaps and how they can better serve Austin/Travis County sexual assault victims. Per Kristen, they (SARRT) began the assessment by looking at demographics, conducted in person and phone interviews with victims of sexual assault. There were a total of 24 phone interviews completed. There were some limitations of the assessment:

- Participation was completely voluntary
- Interviews were only with victims who had made a police report with law enforcement
- Resources and access limited our ability to look at long term outcomes for survivors

**Liz Donegan** commented on the importance of training for all staff mainly law enforcement for the success of filing and holding perpetrators responsible.

Some key findings mentioned:

Lack of clarity and limited definition of CONSENT

Largest underserved population was the Immigrants/Undocumented

The presentation continued with discussion on Challenges to Service Provision, Challenges to Investigation & Prosecution, Reasons for reporting and some recommendations going forward from SARRT.

There were questions from the PSC board members and answers provided from **Liz and Kristen**. In closing Commissioner Webber asked Liz to remind the board of the agencies and nonprofits that are involved in SARRT (Sexual Assault Response and Resource Team).

- Asian Families support Services
- ACC Police Department
- Austin Police Department
- CASA Families
- Institute of Family Violence and Sexual Assault at UT
- SAFE Alliance
- Texas Advocacy Project
- Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid
- Travis County District Attorney’s Office
- Travis County Sherriff’s Department
- Voices Against Violence @ University of Texas

**7. Public safety-related budget questions-** sponsored by Commissioners Rossmo and Webber  
Commissioner Webber introduced Ed Van Eenoo and invited him to begin his response to the four questions submitted by the PSC board.

Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, City of Austin provided written and oral responses to the four questions below from the Public Safety Commission board.

as provide city income data (total and by source) for the past five years, and projected for the next two years. 2. Please provide cost of living (inflation) data for the Austin area for the past five years, and projected for the next two years? 3. If the city hotel occupancy tax (HOT) can be used to support event costs, why does this support not include the full costs of the necessary police, EMS, and fire support? 4. What is the anticipated impact of the proposed reduction in public safety's share of the budget on: (1) community policing efforts and the recommendations from the Matrix report; and (2) on the resource problems in the crime laboratory (particularly, the lengthy delay for fingerprint analysis in burglary and other property crime investigations)?

There was discussion and questions over the information Ed Van Eenoo shared with the board. Commissioner Rossmo commented City of Austin's growth is increasing bringing in more revenue but the Public Safety departments were not receiving a fair share. **Ed Van Eenoo** commented the City of Austin Public Safety budget has been reduced by 3% from what it was three years ago. **Commissioner Webber** commented the City of Austin is doing better but it is not going to Public Safety and that has been and is a decision from City Council. **Commissioner Nunez** commented when we look at Public Safety we just can't think Fire, Police and EMS, but also think about social services that could possible help with issues that shouldn't end up with the police or EMS. **Commissioner Webber** thanked Ed Van Eenoo for his time.

#### **8. Status of community policing recommendations from Matrix Report**

**Commissioner Webber** introduced the item and invited Ms. Maria Emerson with Austin Interfaith to speak. Ms. Emerson spoke on behalf of Austin Interfaith and their support of Community Policing. She also extended an invitation to their House Meetings to all of the PSC board members.

**Commissioner Tyree** extended congratulations to Chief Manley on becoming the Chief of Police for the City of Austin.

Chief Manley addressed the board and began to present on Community Policing, the goals and objectives and progress Austin Police Department has made based on the recommendations listed in the Matrix Report. Topics discussed towards achieving community policing.

A major step for Austin Police Department was we changed our mission statement and redefined the vision of the police department

All Sergeants are required to go through the leadership training

All APD crime maps are being updated to show latest crime spots

Increased community engagement with the stakeholders and inviting community to serve on various community boards to improve/assist with promoting community engagement

New and increased work on social media and a social media coordinator has been hired to assist with the social media

APD recruitment video has been changed/upgraded

There was discussion and questions from the PSC board members:

- Is community policing policy posted on APD website?
- Does the training include partial training on implicit bias?
- Is there a way for the various community policing meetings to be summarized and posted to the website so all community members can benefit from the meeting?
- What does the training for police officers who don't live in the City of Austin look like?
- What was the purpose or benefit of removing the two hour ride out for the new officers?
- How does the lack of a contract affect the day to day community policing?
- What will the entrance exam look like while there is no contract between City of Austin and Austin Police?
- How will the interim exam impact diversity?

Chief Manley answered all the questions from the board.

Future Agenda Items:

Update on the Yearly Crime Report (Rossmo)

Update on Family Violence from SAFE Alliance (Nunez)

Adjourned @ 6:05pm