



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
October 7, 2019**

The Public Safety Commission convened a meeting Monday, October 7, , 2019 at City Hall in the Boards & Commission Room, at 4:00pm, 301 West 2nd Street, Austin Texas 78701.

Ed Scruggs, Chair called the Board Meeting to order at 4:01p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Ed Scruggs	Selena Alvarenga
Rebecca Webber	Preston Tyree
Kathleen Hausenfluck	Chris Harris
Daniela Nunez	
Rebecca Bernhardt	

Board Member Absent: Rebecca Gonzales, Meaghan Hollis, Noel Landuyt

Staff in Attendance:

Joe Chacon, Assistant Chief, Austin Police Department
Rob Vires, Chief of Staff, Austin Fire Department
Andy Hofmeister, Assistant Chief, Austin Travis County Emergency Medical Services

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS –

- Carlos Leon – By-laws for Boards and Commission in relation to Citizen Communication sign up at any Board and Commissions meeting
- Paul Robbins, Environmental Activist – Toxic chemicals in building materials
- Julianna Gonzales, SAFE Alliance – monthly report on SAFE Alliance services and reminded everyone October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Selena Xie, President of EMS Employee Association – Update on medical assaults,
 - APD rolled out new code for medic in distress
 - Descalation training for all medics is scheduled to begin in October 2019
 - Assault reporting form to be rolled out by the Medic Assault Task Force
 - Thanks to Public Safety Commission for their help in bringing light to this issue.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – the September 4, 2019 and August 5, 2019 minutes were both voted on:

August 5, 2019 Minutes – Unanimous vote

September 3, 2019 Minutes – Unanimous vote

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Voting were Commissioner Scruggs, Webber, Hausenfluck, Nunez, Bernhardt, Alvarenga, Tyree and Harris

2. 6-month update on Wildfire Readiness and WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) Code Adoption date update

There were four speakers from Austin Fire Department in attendance, Justice Jones, Wildfire Mitigation Officer, Assistant Chief Lee Davis, Wildfire Division, Joe Limon, Battalion Chief Wildfire Division and Mark Baker Wildfire Division.

Justice Jones began the presentation by sharing information on AFD website, ATX Fire Risk viewer link that he recommended be viewed/used by all citizens of Austin. At this link you are able to type in your personal address and get information on the type of fire risk exist in your neighbor and review recommendations to help reduce some of the risk.

Core Logic Risk Report - we (City of Austin) are rated as 5th most at risk in the country of having the probability of structural losses due to fires. This is not the kind of risk we want, as this is a tool that insurance companies use to determine whether they will write insurance policies in our area.

Justice Jones began the presentation discussing Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) to be completed and implemented in high-risk urban interface areas:

- 15 Fire Wise Communities
- 15 Active Community Wildfire Protection Plans
- 50% of High Wildfire Risk Areas Covered by Local CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan?)
- Currently developing online portal to host, maintain and share local CWPP documents and associated metrics

Justice Jones continued to present on the

- Number of Local CWPP's started in high risk wildfire urban interface areas but not completed
- Percent of high risk wildfire urban interface areas in which identification of potential local CWPP planning areas is still ongoing:

- The number of public presentations and home assessments that have been provided
- The number of fuel mitigation activities and the size of areas mitigated:
- The number of wildfire training contact hours by City Employees including AFD Firefighters and number of employees receiving training
- WUI Code Update

Justice Jones invited Mike Baker up to take questions on WUI Code.

Commissioner Harris had a question on the types of fire risks on the Eastside and Westside of Austin and how do they educate the Eastside?

Justice Jones commented there are different types of fires one being the Eastside experiences more of grass and brush fires and Westside experiences more of the trees and vegetation. Austin Fire department is collaborating with Austin Parks and Recreations department to assist with the continuing education on wildfire preparedness in East Austin. The reception from the communities is different in that West Austin is more aware of the fire risk on their side of town; whereas East Austin is more of don't like change for change sake but are becoming more open to hearing about the necessary changes to try and avoid the wildfires and be prepared in case of a fire.

Commissioner Nunez asked how AFD was reaching apartment residents with the educational information on possible fires, different types of fires and necessary steps to be prepared. Justice Jones responded that Austin Fire Department mostly work with the apartment managers with getting the necessary information to them and they notify the residents. Commissioner Scruggs requested a list of the Homeowners Associations AFD has worked with to date for the board.

Scruggs then asked for a status of where are we (COA) is on the WUI Code since the 2016 resolution was passed. Mark Baker, Austin Fire Department was asked to give an update on the status of implementing the WUI code.

Mark Baker from AFD –thanked PSC board for their support of the resolution at their June 2019 meeting. Since the June meeting AFD has met with the necessary key stakeholders and got approval to move forward. AFD is moving forward to request council action at the December 2019 council meeting. They will begin the implementation of WUI Code after funding has been received. The target month for implementing is May 2019 pending funding and more staff hired.

#3 Update on Sexual Assaults evaluations Consultant Procurement Process

Commissioner Bernhardt provided a summary of the process that the Austin Commission of Women working group experienced while working as a task group on selecting the consultant. She mentioned that the Police Executive Research Firm (PERF) has been hired as the consultant to the City of Austin to review/update how APD assigns sexual assault cases. **Commissioner Hausenfluck** had a question on the scope of work of the consult. Bernhardt responded that the consult would interview survivors of sexual assault as part of the process and they are going to review half of the cases over the seven year period. **Commissioner Nunez** asked if survivors from campuses would be interviewed as well. **Bernhardt** responded she was not sure if those survivors would be included. **Commissioner Alvarenga** asked if there was a timeline of when a report could be expected from the consultant. **Commissioner Webber** commented, the memo from ACM Arellano mentioned 2020 as the expected date for the report to be completed. **Webber** asked who from APD was assigned to this consultant inquiry. **Assistant Chief Chacon** responded Commander Jennifer Stephenson would be the rep from APD working on this project with the consultant team.

4. **2020 Regular Meeting Schedule for Public Safety Commission** – was presented and **Commissioner Alvarenga** noted several dates on the annual meeting schedule were not accurate (due to the dates being presented were for a different year), and it was noted that the 2020 calendar would be edited and brought back to the board for a vote at the November PSC 2019 meeting.
5. **Update on City of Austin’s Gun Violence Task Force - Commissioner Scruggs gave a brief updated on this task force:**
 - Currently eight members are appointed to this task force
 - Scruggs and Landuyt are on the task force along with other community members from various occupations.
 - First meeting will be the week of October 21st 2019
 - There is an opportunity to collect lots of data to get a good picture of Austin’s gun violence in comparison to other major cities
 - If anyone is interested and your council member has not appointed a rep to this task force, please inquire about joining.
6. **Discussion on Public Safety commission budget recommendations submitted for FY2020** Commissioner Scruggs commented on the list of budget recommendations from the Public Safety Commission
 - Cadet Pay Increase
 - Funding for HOST (Homeless Outreach Service Team)
 - EMOCT PSC supported an increase in funding (this contract is currently being managed by the Community Court per Assistant Chief Chacon)
 - WUI Code – approval of funds
 - Budget recommendation for mental health first responders program.Commissioner Harris requested additional update within the next few months.

Request from Commissioner Alvarenga for data from APD on number of cases they respond to that are mental health cases and what is the protocol?

- 7. Discussion on Austin Police Department Training bulletins for Obstruction Ordinance and Camping Ordinance** - Commissioner Scruggs introduced this item and invited Assistant Chacon to speak/share clarification on the ordinance.

Assistant Chief Chacon shared questions that were received by APD on what is the intent of the ordinance. APD wanted to make sure they were providing the clearest direction for APD officers on how to interpret the two ordinances (camping and obstruction). Obstruction notice has to be given to the individual and he/her has to be given ample time to end the obstruction or move items or collect their items. The APD officers are required to document everything from the time the notice was given to the time obstruction was removed. There were questions from Commissioners Scruggs, Nunez, Harris, Webber and Alvarenga. The questions were on the type of furniture at some of the locations, health care issues with certain types of furniture, the general process and amount of time given on the notices to remove obstructions and how are the homeless guided to a safer spot or need that they may be experiencing. Assistant Chacon elaborated on all of the questions and commented that the APD officers use common sense and good judgement when interacting with the homeless and giving them ample time to remove any obstructions.

Adjourn @ 6pm motioned by Commissioner Webber and seconded by Commissioner Tyree