



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Monday, December 3, 2018**

The Public Safety Commission convened a meeting Monday, December 3, 2018 at City Hall, Boards & Commissions Room, 301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair, Rebecca Webber called the Board Meeting to order at 4:02p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Rebecca Webber	Noel Landuyt
Brian Haley	Daniela Nunez
Kim Rossmo	Preston Tyree
Ed Scruggs	Rebecca Gonzales
Sam Holt	
Rebecca Bernhardt	

Board Member Absent:

Michelle McCurdy

Staff in Attendance:

Joe Chacon, Assistant Chief, Austin Police Department
Richard Davis, Assistant Chief, Austin Fire Department
Jasper Brown, Chief of Staff, Austin Travis County Emergency Services

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Commissioner Webber called the meeting to order at 4:02pm and asked for approval or correction of the November 5, 2018 minutes. **Commissioner Bernhardt** requested a correction on page 1, under Approval of the Minutes. The correction was to change the number of votes **Against** from 11 to zero, because the vote on the October 1, 2018 minutes was approved unanimously. **Commissioner Haley** motioned approval of the minutes and **Commissioner Tyree** second. A vote was called on the minutes with the correction and the minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Vote: Unanimous (10 members in attendance)

Against: 0

Absent: 1 (Commissioner McCurdy)

Abstain: 0

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS –

- Carlos Leon – Follow Up on his grievance filed against Elizabeth Cary Grace, City of Austin Attorney

- Juliana Gonzales, Senior Director of Sexual Assaults at SAFE Alliance - Offered to attend the Public Safety Commission's monthly meetings and share a monthly report on the number of sexual assaults victims SAFE Alliance has assisted each month.
- Joell NcNew – Item #6 West Campus Lighting Study
- Allie Runas - Item #6 “
- Mike McHone – Item #6 “

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 called for the monthly stats report from the Public Safety Departments.

AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT – Joe Chacon, Assistant Chief presented APD's monthly report on behalf of Chief of Staff, Troy Gay. The report included:

- November 2018 Call Volume and Response Time
- Citywide Response Times and Calls for Service
- Overtime Spent
- Overtime Hours by Rank
- Staffing

AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES – Jasper Brown, Chief of Staff presented EMS's monthly report.

- EMS Budget Overtime
- Authorized Sworn Staffing and Vacancies
- EMS Response Times

AUSTIN FIRE DEPARTMENT – Richard Davis, Assistant Chief presented AFD's monthly report

- Emergency Response Time
- November Hours by Rank
- Vacancies for Austin Fire Department Civil Service, Cadet Positions and Military not included in their vacancy numbers

4. Introduction of new Chief of Austin Fire Department– Sponsored by Commissioners Haley and Webber

Richard Davis, Assistant Fire Chief introduced Mr. Baker, Austin’s New Fire Chief and expressed how glad the Austin Fire Department was to have him from the City of Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. Baker thanked Assistant Chief Davis for the introduction and commented he was pleased to be in his new position with the City of Austin as Fire Chief. Mr. Baker briefly shared some of his key visions for Austin Fire Department. His vision focused on a number of areas from:

- Increasing staff response times,
- Improve diversity
- Promoting more of what Austin Fire Department does in all areas of the City of Austin
- Focusing on Customer Service (internal and external)
- Public Information Program continue working toward better communication with the public
- Work towards making sure all fire stations have the necessary equipment needed

Commissioner Webber thanked Mr. Baker for stopping by the Public Safety Commission meeting in spite of him managing a very busy schedule as our new Fire Chief.

5. Follow up to October 1, 2018 agenda item regarding Morale within Public Safety Departments with information on November 2018 report from the APD Wellness Task Force
Sponsored by Commissioners Rossmo and Webber

Commissioner Webber introduced this follow up item and welcomed/invited Robert (Bob) Nicks with Austin Firefighters Association, Selena, new president of EMS Employee Association, and Robert Villarreal, Austin Police Association Representative along with Rick Randall of the Austin Police Department Wellness Center to join in with the discussion of this item. **Bob Nicks** gave a brief history of the wellness center that began in the early 2000 under city manager Toby Futrell and the program was joint effort of Austin Police Department and Austin Fire Department. The benefits of the work during that time helped manage employee’s health and got them back to work more quickly. The program promoted:

- a healthier workforce
- increased longevity in the work force
- actually save money
- program overall was very successful

Dr. Rossmo acknowledged that this was good information concerning employee morale, but it was not actually the direction in which he was looking for on follow up information. He was more interested in morale and how to capture individual answers. **Per Dr. Rossmo** commented he was more interested in some sort of organizational surveys to get a sample of where problem pockets are and how problem pockets can be identified within certain groups or functions.

Rick Randall responded with sharing some of the work that has been done by APD concerning their Wellness Program, and the focus groups that have been created to capture more personalized feedback and identify pocket areas/problems directly impacting employee morale.

There was further discussion on employee morale that included comments from Selena, newly elected President of EMS Employee Association, and others on the panel.

6. Results of lighting study in West Campus Sponsored by Commissioners Haley and Scruggs

Commissioner Webber introduced Joel Myers and requested he begin his presentation.

Joel Myers, Pedestrian Coordinator at Austin Transportation Department introduced himself to the board and begins his update by stating his work on the West Campus Lighting study began as a result of a resolution approved by council in May 2017 to study the Lighting on West Campus after the tragic murder of a U.T. Student.

- A consultant was hired to assist with the study
- The consultant found that 20% of the lighting in West Campus was not up to standard.
- Conducted online survey
- Lots of contact with the students for their feedback
- The cost to update the lighting with recommendation from the consultants' report would be 1.4 to 2 million dollars

Joel offered to answer questions from the board and reminded the board he will be going to council with recommendations for funding improvements to the lights in West Campus based on the findings in the consultant report.

Commissioner Webber opened the floor for questions from the board and invited citizens signed up to speak to come forward:

Joel McNew with Safe Horns continued to drive the point on the need for a safe zone on the West Campus

Allie Runas – UT student and West Campus residents thanked the city for all of the attention to the lighting improvement needs on West Campus.

Mike McHone - Member of the University Neighborhood Partners shared history on the works and struggles over the years to improve safety on the West Campus and the continued works.

There were questions and discussion from PSC board members on the cost of the improvements and creative funding for the lighting upgrades. In addition to the consult study, an explanation on the role and authority of the PSC as an advisory board was explained by Commissioner Rossmo so the citizens in attendance understood the type of help they could expect to receive from the board.

7. Update on Vision Zero – Sponsored by Commissioners Nunez and Holt

Speakers:

- Laura Dierenfield, Active Transportation Program Manager, Austin Transportation Department
- Jay Blazek Crossley, Executive Director of Farm & City
- Heyden Black Walker, Walk Austin and Vision Zero ATX Board Member

Laura opened the presentation with sharing the efforts of the Vision Zero over the last two years and provided data for the 2017-2018. Laura shared Vision Zero is a shift from the historical views of traffic safety. She presented on

- Traffic deaths by mode
- Who's affected by accidents and deaths?
- Causes of Crashes
- Partnering with Austin Police Department on Enforcement Achievements
 - No Refusal
 - Safe Driver Initiative
- Engineering Achievements
- Education Achievements
 - On the ground Outreach
 - Media Campaign
- Policy Achievements
 - Speed Management
 - Pedestrian Safety Action Plan
 - Alcohol Consumption
- Integration of Vision Zero into Plans and Manuals

Heyden Black Walker introduced herself as an advocate for Vision Zero and shares some of the grassroots efforts to bring awareness and changes to these incidents as they are not accidents. Several personal stories were shared of incidents that did not have to happen and the impact on love ones left behind and the inspiration the incidents have had on growing grass roots efforts to bring about change.

Jay Blazek Crossley spoke more to the legislative agenda of Vision Zero's goals:

- Safe neighborhood streets for our state
- Consistent, Statewide Hands Free Law
- Stop for pedestrians
- End Traffic Deaths

Questions and discussion from the PSC board followed at the end of the presentations.

9. Revised 2019 Public Safety Commission Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Webber called for a vote on 2019 meeting schedule

Commissioner Haley motioned for the vote on the revised schedule and Commissioner Webber second

Vote:

Unanimous (10 votes)

Absent: Commissioner McCurdy

Abstain: 0

ADJOURN @ 6:03pm