



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, November 5, 2018**

**The Public Safety Commission convened a meeting Monday, November 5, 2018 at City Hall 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.**

**Chair, Rebecca Webber** called the Board Meeting to order at 4:01p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:**

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

**Staff in Attendance:**

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 4:01pm and asked for approval of the October 1, 2018 minutes or corrections. **Commissioner Gonzales** requested a correction on page 1 under the list of absent commissioners to list “Commissioners Gonzales, McCurdy and Holt as absent rather than Haley McCurdy and Holt as absent”. A vote was called on the minutes with the correction and the minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

**Vote: Unanimous (members in attendance)**

**Against: 11**

**Absent: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS –**

- Carlos Leon – Grievance filed against Cary Grace
- Anthony (Tony) Marquardt - EMS matrix and compliance with priority 1 calls

**3. WELCOME/INTRODUCE new board member Rebecca Bernhardt.** Commissioner Webber welcomed Ms. Bernhardt to the Public Safety Commission and invited her to introduce herself to the board. Ms. Bernhardt introduced herself and mentioned her background of working on policy mainly with the Texas legislature.

**4. 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 for the two Public Safety Departments in attendance. She mentioned that Assistant Chief Gay was out attending funeral services for Detective Bujanos .

**Jasper Brown**, Chief of Staff, EMS –commented their office provides a breakdown of Priority 1 calls by council districts and we place assets where the need for calls are based and where population is growing. EMS measures Priority 1 calls monthly and annually. The majority of Priority 1 calls are ALS (Advanced Life Support calls). Each call is measured based on the information EMS call takers receives during the phone call. Each call is carefully measured so that when the team arrives the information received via the phone call matches what EMS gets in the street. Per Chief of Staff Brown, all of our (EMS) calls are posted on our website.

There is no change made to classification of a Priority 1 call if EMS arrive on the scene and discover it is not actually a P1 (Priority 1) call. However EMS staff will change resources needed at the scene.

EMS department Overtimes was actually under the projected time and they were able to give some money back to the general fund in October. 2018. An update to the board on EMS current vacancies and upcoming promotional test was discussed. There is an expectancy of all EMS vacancies to be filled within the next 6-9 months per Chief of Staff, Jasper Brown.

**Commissioner Scruggs** asked about the consist response times in District 9 and questioned if the constituency was because of District 9 being located closer to downtown medical facilities? Commissioner Scruggs also asked if there were enough hospitals and trauma centers in the South Austin area. He expressed concern about the rapid growth in South Austin and the need for more hospital beds in this part of town.

**AUSTIN FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT** – Assistant Chief Davis reviewed Austin Fire Department monthly stats with the board covering response times, added time and current number of vacancies.

**AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT** – was distributed to the board members. There was no discussion due to Chief of Staff, Troy Gay’s absence.

**5. Update on Public Safety Commissioners’ involvement in various public safety-related working groups**

**Commissioner Tyree** reported the **Austin Police Department Equity Assessment Working Group** has continued its work in training people internally. There is a workshop scheduled for November 14, 15, and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 titled Undoing Racism which he and Commissioner Nunez are signed up to attend the workshop. Once the training is completed he will be working with the Equity Assessment Working group.

**Commissioner Nunez** reported the **Police Monitors Oversight Working group** has now wrapped up its job. The report goes to council for approval on November 15, 2018.

**Commissioner Nunez** also updated the board on the Cite and Release Working Group's efforts. Lots of progress has been made and on November 1, 2018 Austin Police Department rolled out changes to its Cite and Release policy. Officers will have more discretion to issue citations for low level misdemeanors/non-violent crimes instead of arresting citizens. This change is in response to there being racial disparities in policing and the resolution from council referencing the Freedom Cities policy. **Commissioner Nunez** stated she wanted to commend the citizens/stakeholders who worked hard in these group meetings and the Austin Police Department for listening to all of the concerns discussed in the meetings. One of the main concerns mentioned was the unnecessary arrests and its impact on low income communities. **Commissioner Webber** thanked Commissioner Nunez for serving and offered to bring this item back to the board if there is any new/continued work on this subject in the future.

#### **6. Election of Public Safety Commission Vice-Chair**

**Commissioner Webber** nominated Commissioner Brian Haley as Vice Chair of Public Safety Commission and **Commissioner Tyree** second the motion. Commissioner Webber asked if there were any other nominations and there were none so she moved to call for a vote.

**VOTE:** Unanimous (11 board member present/voting)

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

**Commissioner Haley was elected as the new Vice Chair.**

#### **7. Approval of Public Safety Commission 2019 meeting schedule**

**Commissioner Webber called for a vote on 2019 meeting schedule**

**Vote:**

Unanimous (11 votes)

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

#### **8. Report from Austin Fire Department regarding California wildfires**

Assistant Fire Chief Davis introduced the firefighters in attendance to present on the CARR Fire. Assistant Chief Davis introduced Randy Denzer, Battalion Chief at AFD, Lt. Steve Gibbons and Captain Craig Phillips along with Justin Jones, AFD Wildfire Manager. **AC Davis** commented this is the first time Austin has participated in EMAC (Emergency Management Assistance Compact). EMAC is the nation's state to state mutual aid system.

Randy Denzer one of the task force leaders for the five teams that went to California began the presentation by showing a brief video of their experience while working on wildfires in California. The video showed pictures of the area they were assigned and pictures of kind notes left for them in various places along with banners posted thanking the visiting firefighters for all of their help/work. He commented that over the years the Public Safety Commission has been very responsive to Austin fire fighters' needs and the overall needs of the Fire Department. The past support from PSC helped Austin fire fights to be better trained and prepared to help with the fire in California.

Randy commented he has been at PSC meetings before talking about the big bad fire that is going to happen in West Austin and that he still believes it is going to happen. He noted:

- the five Austin Fire Fighters that were sent to California were some of the highest trained in the City of Austin Fire Department
- the highly trained Austin fire fighters were partially because of the support from some Assistant Fire Chiefs, like Chief Davis who have supported the Wild Fire department all along
- Lt. Gibbons one of the Engine Boss on a truck worked very hard for two weeks and earned certification that it would have taken months to earn sitting in a classroom. He is now a qualified Strike Team Leader in the state of Texas. He was able to become qualified by the amount of time he spent in California. Actual experience from a live wild fire teaches/trains more than any manual.
- What we brought home from this wildfire experience was
  - Mobilization
  - Operating in the Urban Interface Environment
  - Structural Defense Tactics
  - Learning from Cal Fire (the best)
  - Importance of pre-planning
  - Evacuation planning

There was discussion and questions from the board members on ways or things that could be done to make Austin Fire department better equipped to combat wildfires. There were several ways/suggestions on ways to improve Austin's ability to fight fires and one was a need to be able to move resources a lot faster. A challenge that Austin faces more than a state like California is Austin has a lot more private land owners to work with. There was a consensus at the end on the need for the state to move towards one big station would be a step in the right direction to combat wildfires.

## **9. Update on purchase, implementation, and training for Austin Travis County Emergency Medical Services new ePCR (electronic Patient Care Record) software**

Chief of Staff, Jasper Brown presented a timeline of action/steps taken to go live with the new ePCR software. **Commissioner Webber** asked if there was an issue of funding for the new tablets to be purchased. COS Brown explained that the current tablets in use are at end of life and cost for replacement has been factored in the replacement budget cycle and that will cover the new tablets. **Commissioner Nunez** asked if the new ePCR software would help streamline communication between medics and health care providers. Also, will the records be shared with a hospital in a more timely fashion? Brown's response was the ESO (not an acronym) is the hub that should get the information to the hospital faster than what is currently used. There were questions on whether or not the hospitals use the same software, and per COS Brown they do not use the same software; but there is the patient care record hub that the data goes in and basically match patient name and date of birth and is able to read the two systems together.

All of the patient records in the old system will not be imported into the new system per COS Brown. Staff will still be able to get into the old system. **Commissioner Nunez** asked if COS Brown would discuss the security of the data even though the data is stored on a cloud she expressed some concerns on a possible security breach occurring. COS Brown commented, we all fall under the HIPPA guidelines, the info is stored on a cloud and no medical records are stored on the tablet. CTM Management team is looking over EMS management of records and security. Commissioner

Webber asked to be kept informed of the status of the Fire Department acquiring the ePCR software as well since both departments respond to sick calls for help.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Opioids Abuse - Rossmo
- Update Sobriety Center – Rossmo
- Data on Scooters – Scruggs
- Hospitals/Trauma Rooms shortage- Scruggs
- Update on Office of Police Monitor – Nunez
- New Fire Chief Announcement - Webber
- Update on New Fire Station – Landuyt
- Update on progress at Old Fire Stations (locker rooms) - Tyree
- Update on moral mainly APD – Rossmo
- Enforcement on Big trucks driving IH35 – McCurdy
- Ordinance on four persons staffing on AFD Units – Tyree

**ADJOURN @ 5:37pm**