



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Wednesday, September 9, 2020**

The Public Safety Commission convened a videoconferencing meeting Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at City Hall 301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Commissioner Gonzales called the Board Meeting to order at 3:05p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Rebecca Gonzales
Daniela Nunez
Rocky Lane
Rebecca Webber
Selena Alvarenga

William (Bill) Kelly
Kathleen Hausenfluck
Nelly Ramirez

Board Members Absent: Chris Harris and Rebecca Bernhardt

Staff in Attendance:

Brent Dupre, Assistant Chief, Austin Police Department
Rob Vires, Chief of Staff, Austin Fire Department

- 1. Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Gonzales asked for comments/edits of the May 18, 2020 and August 3, 2020 minutes. Hearing no edits or corrections to the minutes, Commissioner Gonzales deemed the minutes approved.**

Public Communications - Citizens signed up to speak on agenda items only:

There were no citizens signed up to speak.

- 2. Introductions of Dr. Jonathan Kringen, Austin Police Department, Chief Data Officer and Cristina Tangredi, Public Safety Commission Liaison, Office of Police Oversight (Sponsors: Commissioners Gonzales and Webber) Commissioner Gonzales asked Dr. Jonathan Kringen to introduce himself and described what his role is as the APD Chief Data Officer and what his vision is for the department. Dr. Kringen responded to questions from Commissioners Webber, Ramirez and Nunez.**

Cristina Tangredi, with Office of Police Oversight introduced herself and described her role as a Program Specialist with OPO. Cristina commented that she is working on the Police Review Commission, 2019 Officer Involved Shooting Report and the 2019 Racial Profiling Report. There was brief questions and answers from some of the Commissioners interested in when the 2019 reports would be released to the public and whether or not the OPO would provide some assistance in translating the data in the reports to various communities. Commissioner Gonzales thanked

Commissioner Gonzales commented the Public Safety departments quarterly reports will start up again at the October 2020 meeting. There will be one public safety department presenting at October, November, and December 2020 meetings for fifteen minutes.

3. Shady Hollow MUD, Acquisition of Fire Station 46 (currently owned by Shady Hollow MUD)/ service agreement and RCA scheduled to go before Council on October 1, 2020

(Sponsors: Commissioners Gonzales and Webber)

Speaker:

-Rob Vires, Chief of Staff, Austin Fire Department

Rob Vires introduced the Shady Hollow Mud item and the presenting staff Jamila Siller Manager, Austin Fire Department and Russ Crow with City Legal Department. Austin Fire Department was asking the Public Safety Commission for a recommendation in support of the City of Austin purchasing the Fire Station #46 and in support of the City of Austin entering an Interlocal Agreement with the District MUD.

Jamila Siller kicked off the presentation with a history of Shady Hollow MUD(Municipal Utility District) and City of Austin from June 2008 with the approving of 3.5M in bonds to finance the construction of a Fire/EMS station on south Brodie Lane. The station was designed and reviewed by AFD's Facilities Manager to meet AFD standards and built to house both ESD5 and AFD simultaneously, with office space. Since the time of the original agreement there has been a new bill introduced by the state HB1468 that now requires an election to approve annexation. This new HB1468 impacted the original agreement that was in place where an automatic annexation was a part of the agreement. Ross Crow reviewed the ILA with the board and notified them the Interlocal Agreement was currently with the Law Department for the draft to be reviewed and approved. Prior to a vote being taken concerning a recommendation from the Public Safety Commission to approve AFD's purchase of the fire station there were questions from Commissioner Hausenfluck, Webber, and Gonzales. The questions were on what is the risk of going forward without the purchase of the fire station and commissioners wanted to know the cost to build a new Fire Station.

There was much discussion on the purchase of a new fire station and the Interlocal Agreement with the Shady Hollow MUD. The board drafted a recommendation #20200909-003 (see below).



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION 20200909-003

Date: September 9, 2020

Subject: Recommendation that City Council Support Shady Hollow Municipal Utility District

Motioned by: Commissioner Rebecca Webber

Seconded by: Commissioner Selena Alvarenga

Recommendation: The Public Safety Commission recommends that the City Council authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the Shady Hollow Municipal Utility District (MUD) for the provision of fire protection services by the Austin Fire Department to Shady Hollow in exchange for payment by the Shady Hollow MUD to the City. Related to Items #20-3034, #20-3083, #20-3085.

Description of Recommendation to Council: City Council passed Resolution No. 20200521-010 on May 21, 2020 – City Council directed the City Manager to negotiate with representatives of the Shady Hollow Municipal Utility District (District) to amend the City’s Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA).

Therefore, The Public Safety Commission recommends that the Austin City Council move forward with the interlocal agreement.

Rationale: The Public Safety Commission believes the addition of Station 46 is a benefit to the Austin community and not entering into the interlocal agreement will cause service disruptions of vital fire services to the Shady Hollow MUD and the surrounding areas.

Vote:

For: Rebecca Gonzales, Selena Alvarenga, Daniela Nunez, Bill Kelly, Kathleen Hausenfluck, Rocky Lane
Rebecca Webber, Nelly Paulina Ramirez

Against: Zero

Abstain: Zero

Absent: Rebecca Bernhardt, Chris Harris

Attest: *[Staff or board member can sign]*

Janet Jackson, APD Liaison

4. Proposed Decommissioning and Reusing Land at Austin Police Department Headquarters (Sponsors: Commissioners Gonzales and Webber)

Commissioner Webber introduced this item and explained this item is actually from the Public Safety Committee. Council Member Flannigan asked Public Safety Commission to explore the idea of Austin Police Department Headquarters moving somewhere new and how the land would/could be redeveloped in a way that honors the movement that has been going on over the summer that impacts Black and Brown lives.

Connor Kenny introduced the speakers from diverse nonprofits organizations who were invited to comment/share with the commissioners on some possible ideas of use for the current headquarters building/land should Austin Police Department relocate.

The people listed below each shared their thoughts/ideas on ways each organization could use/set up offices in the building to further their agenda. Selena Xie commented that she felt the property should remain in the City of Austin's hands and be used for a joint public safety facility where all areas (EMS, APD and AFD) could meet for debriefings while working weekends or any time.

- Conor Kenny, Director of Public Affairs at Civiltude Group, immediate past chair of the Austin Planning Commission
- Selena Xie, President of the Austin-EMS Association, our paramedic union
- Shoshana Krieger, Program Director with BASTA, a local tenants rights and assistance association
- Preston James, CEO of DivInc, a non-profit organization working to transform the existing entrepreneur tech ecosystem into a more authentic/inclusive environment

Darrell Alexander, Building Services Officer with City of Austin, commented the City of Austin is in the 1st phase of looking at the APD Headquarters building and it could be anywhere from a month to six weeks before the department begin the process of what are some of the options, space needs and requirements of the department to be relocated.

5. Future Agenda Items

- APD Headquarters benefits of being downtown; do they even want to be downtown? (Webber)
- All around benefits for the LBGTQ Community (Lane)
- Possibility of Headquarters building becoming an expansion site for HOST (homelessness downtown) (Ramirez)
- Update on the safety of the homeless population during COVID – What COA doing to provide more support? (Nunez)

Adjourn: Commissioner Webber motioned to adjourn @ 4:34pm and Commissioner Lane seconded

Vote: Nunez-yes
Hausenfluck – Yes
Alvarenga – Yes
Ramirez – Yes
Kelly – Yes
Gonzales - Yes