



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, August 1, 2011**

**The Public Safety Commission convened in a regular meeting on Monday, August 1, 2011 at City Hall, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.**

**Chair Michael Lauderdale, called the Board Meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Michael Lauderdale  
Michael Levy  
Aman Bandali  
Ramey Ko (Arrived at approximately 4:26 pm)  
Kim Rossmo  
Moses Saldana, Sr.  
Sam Holt

**Board Members not in Attendance:**

**1. Approval of Minutes**

- a. The minutes for the regular meeting on 07/11/2011 were approved on Commissioner Bandali's motion, Commissioner Holt's second on a 6-0-1 vote with Commissioner Ko not present.

**2. Citizen Communications**

- a. Ronnie Reefersseed – discussed giving troops the medical assistance they need from injuries and stated that medicinal marijuana can assist in helping soldier who return from war.
- b. Clay DeFao – asked what the DEA has been doing to combat the rise in drug activity. The DEA is not doing anything to combat gang and cartel information and please end the drug war.
- c. Trey Reginelly – spoke to the immorality of the drug war itself and the right of people to put whatever they want into their own body. He also stated that marijuana use is a victimless crime.

*For more information on the Public Safety Commission, please contact Austin Police Department Chief of Staff, David Carter at (521) 974-5030.*

*The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 4 days before the meeting date. Please call Lee Davila at the Austin Police Department, at (512) 974-4711, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.*

- d. Robert Love – stated that the war on drugs implies that someone will win. However, the DEA no longer calls it a war because they know they cannot win.
- e. Heather Fazio – stated the DEA is responsible for a failed policy. We need to take a common sense approach to the way we deal with these issues. DPS is a threat-based agency.

**3. Discussion and Possible Action Items**

- a. Commission recommendation to City Council reference potential cuts to Public Safety budgets.
  - 1) Recommendations were made with respect to the Public Safety Commission’s response to citizen expressions of need and from expert testimony from leadership and staff of the City’s three Public Safety Departments.

**4. Briefings and Updates**

- a. ARIC/DEA/DPS updates on public safety threats from gangs, organized crime, and cartels – Sean Mannix, APD Assistant Chief, Don Baker, APD Commander, Gregory Thrash, DEA, James Jones, DPS.
  - 1) Gregory Thrash, resident DEA agent, spoke about how cartel activity is now the deadliest form of conduct in Mexico. He also spoke about Project Delirium which included assistance from 22 area agencies, including the Austin Police Department.
  - 2) Don Baker, Austin Police Department Commander, spoke about localize gang activity and how this year, Austin currently has 2657 documented active gang members from 113 gangs. He also spoke about Operation Gang Crusher which arrested 42 individuals whose total charges reached 417. Other operations focused on dismantling gang leaders.
  - 3) Rosie Perez, Austin Independent School District Detective, spoke about the efforts of the Joint Juvenile Gang Task Force and how it works alongside other agencies to help intervene with juveniles who are on their way to joining a gang. Also mentioned was the GREAT (Gang Resistance Education And Training) program which helps leads kids in a positive direction, suppresses gang practices, and provides visibility of officers.

**5. Possible Agenda Items for September Meeting**

- a. Boarding Home Task Force update – Vincent Delisi, Health & Human Services Supervisor

**6. Adjournment**

- a. Motion by Commissioner Saldana, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Ko.

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