



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, September 4, 2012**

The Public Safety Commission convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Michael Lauderdale, called the Board Meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Kent Anschutz
Sam Holt
Michael Lauderdale
Michael Levy
Kim Rossmo

Board Members not in Attendance:

Ramey Ko

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. The minutes for the regular meeting on 08/06/2012 were approved on Commissioner Holt's motion, Commissioner Rossmo's second on a 5-0 vote with Commissioner Ko not present.

2. Citizen Communications

- a. Sylvia Benini, Austin Citizen, spoke regarding the Austin Police Department's handling of Occupy Austin issues, and recent report of APD's involvement in Harris County investigation.
- b. Antonio Buehler, Austin Citizen, spoke regarding his recent arrests, and APD's involvement in the Occupy movement report coming from Harris County.
- c. Claire Hirschkind, Austin Citizen, spoke regarding her arrest at City Hall during Occupy Austin on February 3, 2012.

3. Discussion and Possible Action Items

- a. EMS Paramedic Vacancies – presented by A/TCEMS Chief of Staff James Shamard and A/TCEMS Assistant Director of Finance John Ralston.
Discussion was held regarding the discrepancies in the number of EMS Paramedic vacancies, as reported by various media and city agencies. Chief of Staff Shamard advised

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- that the current Paramedic vacancy rate is 49 vacancies, 12 of which are new positions at the new Mueller station, which is still under construction. Backup material archived.
- b. City Administrative Obligations to the Public Safety Commission – comments presented by Chairman Michael Lauderdale
NOTE: This item was initially skipped, and these comments ultimately came at the conclusion of discussion of item 3.c.
Chairman Lauderdale expressed displeasure with finding out about critical public safety issues from the local media rather than it coming from the affected departments. Chairman Lauderdale charged each of the Chiefs of Staff with providing that information in a timely manner to the commission.
- c. Wild Fire Risk – presented by AFD Chief of Staff Harry Evans, Austin Fire Fighters Association President Bob Nicks, and AFD Chief Engineer Carl Wren.
Discussion was held regarding the fact that despite the acknowledged Wild Fire Risk, no money has been budgeted in the proposed City of Austin Budget for a Wildland Fire Division. A report was presented to the commission by Chief of Staff Evans. Backup material archived.
Chairman Lauderdale advised that he will have further discussions with City Council to once more push forward the idea of funding a Wildland Fire Division.
- d. Fire Hydrant Water Pressure Problems
Item tabled until the October meeting.
- e. Neighborhood Enforcement Issues – presented by APD Chief of Staff David Carter, Assistant Chiefs Patrick Ockletree and Raul Munguia, Assistant District Attorney Dayna Blazey and Assistant City Attorney David Douglas.
- i. 12th Street and Chicon Area – presented by Assistant Chief Ockletree
Discussion was held regarding the Sit and Lie ordinance and the feeling that it would be ineffective in this area, and other initiatives that are currently underway that should prove more productive.
 - ii. Downtown Area – presented by Assistant Chief Munguia
Discussion was held regarding the effectiveness of the Sit and Lie ordinance in the downtown area. Chief Carter advised that a report will be forthcoming that will address the effectiveness of the ordinance.
 - iii. Travis County District Attorney representative – presented by ADA Dayna Blazey
ADA Blazey discussed enhanced prosecution in the downtown business area, as well as prosecution in general citywide.
 - iv. Assistant City Attorney representative – no comments were made by Assistant City Attorney David Douglas
- f. APD PERF Report
Item tabled until the October meeting.
- g. Dog Bites in Relation to Public Safety
A report was issued to the Commission on behalf of Animal Control Services. Commissioner Rossmo expressed concerns with the report, and following discussion it was decided that this item should be tabled and added as an agenda item in the October meeting.

Citizen Communication related to Discussion/Action Items:

- i. Kim Davis, Austin Citizen and President of the Chestnut Neighborhood Association, presented paperwork indicating that the Chestnut NA is not in favor of expanding the Sit and Lie ordinance to the 12th St/Chicon area.
- ii. Colleen Lynn, Austin Citizen, spoke regarding dog bites, and provided a report to the Commission regarding dog bites prepared by her organization, DogsBite.org. Backup material archived.

4. Briefings and Updates

No briefings or updates were provided.

5. Possible Agenda Items for October Meeting

- a. Continued discussion of the EMS Paramedic vacancy rate.
- b. Continued discussion of Wild Fire Risk.
- c. Continued discussion of dog bites/attacks as they relate to public safety.
- d. Discussion of the APD PERF staffing report.

6. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Anschutz, second by Commissioner Holt. Meeting adjourned.