



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, November 5, 2012**

**The Public Safety Commission convened in a regular meeting on Monday, November 5, 2012 at City Hall, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.**

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

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Kim Rossmo  
Kent Anschutz  
Sam Holt  
Michael Lauderdale  
Michael Levy

**Board Members not in Attendance:**

Ramey Ko

**1. Approval of Minutes**

- a. The minutes for the regular meeting on 10/01/2012 were approved on Commissioner Rossmo's motion, Commissioner Holt's second on a 5-0 vote with Commissioner Ko not present.

**2. Citizen Communications**

- a. Eleanor Langsdorf, President of the North Austin Civic Association, spoke in support of the Rundberg Neighborhood Revitalization Program using the Byrne Criminal Justice Grant funds and the importance of Code Enforcement in the area.

**3. Discussion and Possible Action Items**

- a. Adoption of 2013 Public Safety Commission Meeting Schedule - Chair Michael Lauderdale  
A motion to accept the proposed 2013 dates was made by Chair Lauderdale, seconded by Commissioner Anschutz and approved by a 5-0 vote
- b. Human Trafficking Update – presented by APD Commander Donald Baker, APD Lieutenant Monroe Yarbrough, Dolores Laparte-Litton of APD Victim Services and Larry Megason of Restore A Voice  
Discussion was held about the current efforts by APD, the UT School of Social Work, Restore A Voice, and other community partners to prevent, combat and prosecute human

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trafficking, to promote public awareness, and to build the social service infrastructure needed to serve human trafficking victims.

- c. PERF Review Timetable – presented by Assistant Chief Brian Manley  
Assistant Chief Manley provided a summary of the PERF study findings and the need for additional sworn and civilian personnel. The Commission requested business case briefings for needed sworn and civilian personnel beginning in January to provide the information needed for them to make recommendations to Council during the budget discussions.
- d. Austin Regional Intelligence Center Update – Commander Chris McIlvain  
Commander McIlvain and Lieutenant Spangler provided examples of successes achieved as a result of ARIC operations and stressed the importance of protecting civil rights and privacy. The Commission requested a summary of the report produced by the ARIC Advisory Committee as soon as it becomes available. Discussion was also held about the federal report on fusion center operations, efficacy and cost.
- e. Overview of Public Order Initiative – Chief of Staff David Carter and Assistant Chief Raul Munguia

*This item was moved and taken up immediately after the Human Trafficking Update (Item 3b)*

Chief of Staff David Carter and Assistant Chief Raul Munguia provided an overview of the Public Order Initiative that was launched as a result of the increase in downtown violent crime and disorder. Discussion was held on the various populations that reside, work and visit downtown, statistics on transient and homeless involvement in crimes, and the need for support services to serve the homeless population. The Commission also requested detailed information about violent crimes occurring downtown including demographic information for victims and suspects and the type, time and area where crimes are occurring.

Pamela Power, Chair of Downtown Austin Alliance and Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association (DANA) Board Member, spoke about a survey that DANA conducted measuring experiences and attitudes about living downtown especially as it relates to crime and homeless and transient populations.

Mitchell McGovern, Vice President of DANA, spoke about the goal of the organization, the increase in downtown crime, the request for additional law enforcement presence, and downtown resident concerns.

Suzanne Armstrong, downtown resident, spoke about drug related crimes she has observed and the need for additional officers and lighting in the 5<sup>th</sup> and Sabine area.

George Armstrong, downtown resident, spoke about the decline in quality of life he has experienced citing the large transient population, aggressive panhandling, drug trade, and the downtown location of the homeless services.

Jerry Schneyer, downtown resident, spoke about his experiences with downtown panhandlers, the need for additional resources for APD to combat the problems in downtown, the behavior of some members of the homeless population and drug-related crime.

Barry Lewis (speaking on behalf of Madge Whistler), downtown resident and DANA Board Member, issued requests to the Commission and Council to increase their exposure to APD efforts to address downtown behavior, for an undercover group to work downtown on a permanent basis, to consider the unique circumstances of downtown (large entertainment

district) and the reinstatement of uniformed foot patrols downtown. He expressed concern about the unsafe reputation that downtown is developing.

**4. Possible Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

- a. The current working relationship between Code Enforcement and APD.
- b. An overview by APD and EMS of demographic information on the homeless, the mentally ill and those with past criminal convictions who are currently living on the street and numbers from APD about the amount of mental health calls that require additional action (hospitalization, etc.) - this is requested to happen as soon as possible to coordinate with the upcoming legislative session.
- c. Business case presentations on needed staffing for APD, EMS and AFD (January). Information is requested ahead of time to give the Commission time to review.
- d. Brief presentation and handout outlining the elements of a staffing business case (December).
- e. A presentation on the report produced by the ARIC Advisory Committee, an outline of the issues that ARIC addresses and the information sharing capabilities and effectiveness between ARIC and other agencies.

**6. Adjournment**

- a. Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Anschutz, seconded by Commissioner Holt. Meeting adjourned at 6:03PM.

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