



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, March 4, 2013**

**The Public Safety Commission convened in a regular meeting on Monday, March 4, 2013 at City Hall, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.**

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

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Kim Rossmo (present beginning at 4:06)  
Kent Anschutz  
Sam Holt  
Michael Lauderdale  
Michael Levy  
Reynaldo Moreno  
Ramey Ko

**Board Members not in Attendance:**

**1. Approval of Minutes**

- a. The minutes for the regular meeting on 2/04/2013 were approved on Commissioner Holt's motion, Commissioner Ko's second and a 6-0 vote with Commissioner Rossmo not present.

**2. Citizen Communications**

Adrian Moore praised the Commission for their February 2013 recommendation to Council regarding firearms and spoke about the resolution passed by the Council on At Risk Youth (CARY) board reaffirming the organization's commitment to evidence based delinquency and youth violence prevention programs with AISD students, continued education on delinquency and youth violence and the organization's advocacy of youth violence prevention throughout the United States.

**3. Discussion and Possible Action Items**

- a. Discussion and Approval of the Public Safety Commission Annual Internal Review  
Chair Lauderdale provided a copy of his Annual Internal Review to each of the Commissioners and requested approval for submission to the City Clerk's Office. Commissioner Rossmo moved for approval of the report and Commissioner Moreno seconded. The item was approved unanimously.

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b. Vote on September PSC Meeting Date Change

The proposal to reschedule the September 3, 2013 Public Safety Commission meeting was postponed because the alternate date (September 5, 2013) conflicted with a holiday. Tara Long will come back to the Commission with two or three other September dates for the Commissioners to vote on.

c. Overview of Wildfire Risk and Emergency Preparedness

Chief Evans expressed his thanks to the Public Safety Commission, City Management and Mayor & Council for their support in addressing wildfire related issues. AFD Wild Land Administrator, Chief Jim Lenardos, spoke about the development of the AFD Wild Land Division's three-pronged strategy to provide effective and efficient fire service, establishing fire resilient landscaping and building fire adaptive communities. He discussed community outreach efforts, wildfire planning, training, tools, coordination and goals, and the continuing work with various agencies including the Texas Forest Service, APD, the UT Wildflower Center, Austin Water Utility and City-County Wild Land Taskforce. Chief Evans and Chief Lenardos offered a progress report on each of the June 2012 Public Safety Commission Wildfire Recommendations for AFD personnel, partnerships, processes and equipment. Chief Evans and Chief Lenardos also responded to questions about the working relationship between Austin Water Utility and AFD, fuel mitigation progress, public education needs and considerations, and regional planning. Commissioner Levy requested that Chief Evans, Chief Lenardos and President Bob Nicks attend the April Public Safety Commission Meeting to help the Commission develop a recommendation to Council about AFD budget needs and to provide estimates about the number of homes at risk of wildfires.

d. ARIC Privacy Policy Advisory Committee Update

Chief of Staff David Carter presented an update to the Public Safety Commission about four ARIC Privacy Policy Committee Recommendations that have been implemented to govern the dissemination of information, public information requests, the use of peer to peer external audits and training document maintenance. Commission Ko requested updated privacy policy language when it becomes available, future updates on information produced by the Committee and audit results. Chair Lauderdale recognized the value of ARIC and asked for an overview about ARIC operations at the April Public Safety Commission. Commissioner Rossmo voiced support for law enforcement intelligence analysis of large groups, particularly those without centralized leadership, expressed unease about the use of agitators in undercover law enforcement operations and echoed the need for additional information about ARIC jurisdiction, limits and responsibilities. Commissioner Holt stressed the importance of sharing information among law enforcement agencies through centers like ARIC. He also expressed support for Commissioner Rossmo's position about the responsibility of law enforcement to monitor large groups and urged APD to address the Occupy Austin photos published in the Austin Chronicle.

Ko moved to strongly urge the Austin City Council to act quickly to fill their vacancy on the ARIC Privacy Policy Committee particularly because the City of Austin is responsible for appointing the community advocate to the Committee. Commission Rossmo offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Debbie Russell spoke about the importance of the ARIC privacy policy and her concerns about its application during Occupy Austin. Chief of Staff David Carter provided feedback to address her concerns about the role of ARIC and APD operational processes.

e. Overview of 2012 Traffic Fatalities and Distracted Driving in Austin

Assistant Chief Patrick Ockletree offered introductory remarks about the dangers of distracted driving and APD initiatives designed to discourage it. Lieutenant Robert Richman spoke about APD's efforts to study 2012 traffic fatalities and serious injury collisions, the establishment of partnerships with area law enforcement agencies and other city departments to collectively address hazardous driving behavior and transportation issues and APD's practice of focusing traffic enforcement in areas that experience a large volume of crashes. He also responded to questions about staffing levels and schedules.

Commissioner Anschutz raised concern about whether it is fair to expect APD to affect substantial change to the number of traffic fatalities citing the large population increase in and around Austin and the resulting increase in traffic. Commissioner Rossmo agreed that population growth is a substantial part of the traffic fatality discussion and the rate of traffic fatalities really has not seen a substantial increase. Based on the presentation, Commissioner Levy recommended that APD's Highway Enforcement Unit consider working with City Legal and the Prosecutor's Office to gather information about policies and legislation used by other Texas cities and states to aggressively target distracted driving and to clarify language in the City's current ordinance on the use of wireless devices while driving. Commissioner Ko offered a second and clarification that the information should include predictive analysis of the outcome if the City of Austin adopts a requirement that drivers use only hands free wireless devices while driving except in emergency circumstances. Commissioner Rossmo stressed the importance of gathering information both about laws on distracted driving and data about the law's efficacy. He also made a friendly amendment that Commissioner Levy accepted to gather information about effective policies rather than aggressive policies. Chair Lauderdale called for the vote and it passed unanimously. Commissioners requested that APD present their findings to the Commission at the July 2013 meeting.

Scott Johnson spoke on this item and voiced his support for the prohibition of handheld cell phone use while driving citing the dangers of distracting driving and the difficulty of enforcing the existing city ordinance against texting while driving. He asked the Public Safety Commission to make a recommendation to the City Council that they consider an ordinance against handheld use and suggested that the Council further clarify the existing ban on texting while driving.

#### 4. Briefing and Updates

Presentation of APD Staffing Needs Related to PERF Study

*This item was taken up only briefly due to time constraints and will be on the April 2013 Public Safety Commission.*

Commissioner Levy requested a copy of the PERF Study be sent to all Commissioners and requested that APD revisit the civilian needs of the department at the April Public Safety Commission meeting. Assistant Chief Brian Manley outlined new and upgraded positions currently under consideration for FY13-14. He also touched on the additional personnel

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required to monitor the three 24 hour bike trails and for the boardwalk that is anticipated to be complete in April 2013 and the staffing levels suggested in the PERF study moving forward. He fielded questions about lateral transfers and the 1:500 officer ratio.

**5. Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items**

- Continued Discussion on Wildfire Risk and Emergency Preparedness
- Continued Discussion on APD Staffing Needs
- Overview of ARIC operations
- APD's Response to Occupy Austin
- Distracted Driving Legislation and Benchmark Data (July 2013)

**6. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Anschutz, seconded by Commissioner Moreno. Meeting adjourned at 5:59 PM.