



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Monday, July 7, 2014**

The Public Safety Commission convened in a regular meeting on Monday, July 7, 2014 at the Town Lake Center, 721 Barton Springs Road in Austin, Texas.

Chair Kim Rossmo, called the Board Meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

Board Members in Attendance:

Kim Rossmo
Mike Levy
Reynaldo Moreno
Ramey Ko (arrived at 4:34)
Kent Anschutz
Michael Lauderdale

Board Members not in Attendance:

Sam Holt
Mike Levy

1. Approval of Minutes

- The minutes for the regular meeting on 05/05/2014 were approved on Commissioner Moreno's motion, Commissioner Anschutz's second and a 5-0 unanimous vote.

2. Citizen Communications

- **Pat Johnson** – Pat John, founder of Texas Towing Compliance, voiced concern about APD's response to vehicle tows.

3. Discussion and Possible Action Items

a. Transition of Boards and Commissions Discussion

- Chair Rossmo spoke about his reservations regarding the Boards and Commissions Transition Taskforce Recommendation that the Public Safety Commission merge with the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee and encouraged other members of the Public Safety Commission to respond to the Transition Taskforce survey both individually and as a Commission.

For more information on the Public Safety Commission, please contact Austin Police Department Chief of Staff, David Carter at (512) 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 Tara Long at the Austin Police Department, at (512) 974-5747, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

- **Public Safety Commission Recommendation:** The Public Safety Commission formally recommends that the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee and Public Safety Commission not merge as suggested by the Board and Commission Transition Taskforce for the following reasons:
 - 1) The consolidation of the two bodies does not serve public safety concerns nor do the priorities of the Public Safety Commission align with those of the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee.
 - 2) The Public Safety Commission already has consistently full agendas and exceeds the two hour meeting time regularly; areas of interest sometimes wait months before being taken up because of the broad mandate of the Commission.
 - 3) The transition to an eleven member Commission will likely grow the number of issues on agendas half again as much with increased focus on local crime.
 - 4) The Public Safety Commission was not consulted about the recommendation before it was made to Council despite written communication and a telephone conversation between the Transition Taskforce and the Public Safety Commission.

Vote

The resolution against consolidating the Public Safety Commission and the Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee was approved unanimously on Commissioner Lauderdale's motion and Commissioner Moreno's second.

Absent: Vice Chair Holt and Levy and Commissioner Ko

b. Hydrology Report – Dr. David R. Maidment of the University of Texas

- Dr. Maidment spoke about his credentials, the characteristics of Onion Creek watershed and the Halloween 2013 flood, analysis tools, the impact of impervious cover on the Onion Creek Watershed, the City's future condition study, the need for interagency cooperation and information exchange, and the application of flood analysis to future planning and emergency response.
- **Public Safety Commission Recommendation:** Based on the testimony of Dr. David Maidment of the University of Texas and the information provided by City of Austin Public Safety Departments:
 - 1) The Public Safety Commission recommends the hydrology report presentation offered by Dr. Maidment be forwarded to the Austin City Council with the suggestion that the Council examine the presentation and determine appropriate agencies, parties, partners, etc. to share the presentation data with.

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2) The Public Safety Commission endorses the submission of the Austin Halloween Flood as a case study for the National Flood Simulation System and

3) The Commission endorses and urged the Council to encourage greater information sharing through participation in the National Flood Simulation System

Vote

The resolution supporting the budget requests of the Austin Fire Department was approved unanimously on Commissioner Ko's motion and Commissioner Moreno's second.

Absent: Vice Chairs Levy and Holt

c. *Distracted Driving Update – Commissioner Ramey Ko*

- Commissioner Ko offered a summary of the work being completed by the Distracted Driving Study Group formed as a result of City Council resolution number 20140227-045.

d. *Austin Police Department Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Questioning (LGBTQ) Liaison Introduction and Scope of Duties – Charles Loosen*

- Charles Loosen talked with the Commission about his efforts thus far to connect with members of the LGBTQ community and gather information about the community's priorities and concerns. Additionally, he spoke about the process for giving LGPOA an opportunity to raise money through voluntary payroll deductions. The Commission requested that Mr. Loosen report back to the Commission to hear more about his work as the LGBTQ Liaison.
- **Public Safety Commission Recommendation:** The Public Safety Commission recommends that the Austin Police Department and the Austin City Council explore ways to resolve the threshold problem of payroll deductions to support the LGPOA.

Vote

The recommendation supporting payroll deductions for the LGPOA was approved unanimously on Chair Rossmo's motion and Commissioner Moreno's second.

Absent: Vice Chair Holt and Levy

e. *Impact of Drought on Public Safety*

- Chief Evans asked the Commission for greater clarification about what sort of information the body would like regarding the impact of drought on public safety. Chair Rossmo mentioned that he would like to understand whether there will be

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enough water for AFD in the future. Beyond that, the Commission chose to postpone giving direction because Vice Chair Holt was not present and he requested the item.

4. Discussion Regarding Potential Future Agenda Items

- Agent Thrash – Commissioner Lauderdale will make contact
- Dr. Ziebell – likely in October
- SXSW Update
- Special Event Update from Public Safety Departments
- Hate Crimes Taskforce Report – to be sent by Charles Loosen

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Anschutz, seconded by Commissioner Lauderdale. Meeting adjourned at 6:04p.m.