



**Public Safety Committee  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
October 26, 2015**

**The Public Safety Committee convened in a regular meeting on Monday, October 26, 2015 at 301 W. Second St. in Austin, Texas.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Zimmerman called the Board Meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Don Zimmerman, Chair; Ora Houston; Leslie Pool

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Committee approved the minutes of the September 28, 2015 meeting on a motion made by Council Member Houston, seconded by Council Member Pool, motion moved 3/0.

**Consider starting the meeting with Agenda Item 4. Motion made by Council Member Pool and seconded by Council Member Houston, motion moved 3/0.**

**4. STAFF BRIEFING, INVITED TESTIMONY, AND POLICY DISCUSSION  
REGARDING SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST.**

- The Austin Police Department's Chief of Staff Brian Manley provided an overview of the APD process for South by Southwest and their staff assignments to cover the needs for the event. He discussed the hours logged by the police department and the help provided by the Department of Public Safety. Council Members asked about the possibility of getting help from the University of Texas Police Department.
- Assistant City Manager Rey Arellano will follow up with Mr. Baray's office to get a status update of when the South by Southwest reports will be available for Council Members to review.
- Mr. Bill Manno with the Special Events Office discussed the increase of attendees to the festival including that since the year 2007, attendance has increased dramatically. Austin is now a spring break destination and there is a corporate marketing strategy which brings clients to Austin during this time.
- Discussed the application process for temporary events that occur during SXSW and TABC licenses.
- Chair Zimmerman asked about a budget for APD and commented on how there is not a line item in the FY 2016 Budget for this event.

- Austin Police Association Vice President Andrew Romero proposed that the City Council consider using \$1.5 million, out of the \$2 million that was left over from the FY15 APD budget, and move it into a fund to cover overtime expenses for police officers who work the event. Mr. Romero pointed out that there is a short window of opportunity to make this happen since there are few Council meetings between now and next year's festival.
    - Committee Members asked staff and the police association to discuss this proposal.
  - A representative with SXSW said they bring in national security representatives to help during the festival and emergency management needs are all reviewed. They had a series of workshops and all members of the Public Assembly Code Enforcement (PACE) team attended. He shared data on the revenue that the festival brings into the city.
  - Ken Casaday, President, Austin Police Association explained that the City of Austin cannot bring in a non-civil service person to work in the place of a civil service employee.
  - The APD overtime budget is \$8 million for FY2016. Not knowing what can happen during the year, Chief Manley does not recommend using the FY2015 surplus fund for overtime costs for SXSW overtime costs.
  - Council Member Pool asked for the group to get input from Deputy Chief Financial Officer Ed Van Eenoo. She wants staff, APD Association and Mr. Van Eenoo to meet before coming back to the Committee. Assistant City Manager Arellano said he will be reviewing this matter.
  - Chair Zimmerman will ask the Economic Development Committee to look at having hotels help with the cost for added security since they are fully occupied due to the SXSW festival.
- 2. STAFF BRIEFING, INVITED TESTIMONY, AND POLICY DISCUSSION REGARDING POLICE BODY CAMERAS, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT OF THE AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL.**
- APD Chief of Staff Manley said an RFP can be released early in November. The committee wants to see the RFP before it goes out.
  - Ely Reyes, Commander with the Austin Police Department said there is a grant for the body cameras in which the state has allocated \$10 million. The application process has not yet been vetted. He will follow up with the state to get an update on the grant process.
  - An informational meeting for public input will be held on November 30, 2015 at the Palmer Events Center.
- 3. STAFF BRIEFING, INVITED TESTIMONY, AND POLICY DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CITY'S SEX OFFENDER ORDINANCES.**
- Chris Coppola with the Law Department provided an overview of this item.
    - The state has a registration requirement and it varies based on the crime committed.
    - Distances of a sex offender's location in relation to where children gather was discussed along with what the practices are of other cities.

- A sex offender cannot be required to move from their homes if a pool or park is later built near their homes or if an ordinance was not in effect at the time that the sex offender moved there.
- Sex offenders cannot be banished from the city.
- Chair Zimmerman said the Committee wants to know how a sex offender is managed.
  - The Austin Police Department has issued seventy-five warrants so far in 2015. These warrants are for failure to comply and the sex offender is wanted for arrest. APD does have a prioritization scale when working on warrants.
- Council Member Houston asked where citizens can go to get help.
  - Neighbors will get notification if a sex offender is listed as a high risk.
  - APD gets a pre-release notice of when a sex offender is getting released.
  - The Department of Public Safety website has a Sex Offender Registry and a citizen can check there to see if a sex offender is living in their zip code.

**5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

- Michael Fullsom – He provided the Committee with a packet of information and spoke about the City of Austin’s current Coyote Management policy. He is against making any changes to the policy. This item has not gone to any other Commission yet. Council Member Houston said it will probably go before the Health and Human Services Committee on a future agenda. Mr. Fullsom was thanked by the Committee for sharing the information.
- Ms. Vega – Donated her time to Mr. Fullsom.

**6. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.**

**NEXT MEETING**

Monday, November 30, 2015

**ADJOURN**

Chair Zimmerman adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m. without objection.

*The minutes were approved on this the 30th day of November 2015 on a unanimous vote.*