



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Monday, August 7, 2017**

The Public Safety Commission convened a meeting on Monday, August 7, 2017 at City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair, Rebecca Webber called the Board Meeting to order at 4:00p.m..

Board Members in Attendance:

Rebecca Webber, Chair	Ed Scruggs
Daniela Nunez, Vice Chair	Kim Rossmo
Brian Haley	Sam Holt
Rebecca Gonzales	Noel Landuyt
Preston Tyree	Vanessa Perez
Carol Lee	

Staff in Attendance:

Troy Gay, Assistant Chief, Austin Police Department
Jasper Brown, Chief of Staff, Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services
Richard Davis, Assistant Chief, Austin Fire Department

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the June 5, 2017 meeting were approved. Commissioner Haley motioned for approval of the minutes and Commissioner Holt second. **The minutes were approved with a vote: 10 approved and 1 abstaining (Commissioner Carol Lee)**

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS – two citizens signed up to speak

- **Carlos Leon** – spoke and gave a warning of danger to our national republic. He quoted Rich Huggins and Michael Salvage’s opinions/writings on different cultures that could destroy America.
- **John Woodley** -Spoke on speed cushions on public streets and right of ways and some of the problems/inconveniences it causes for people with disabilities and bicyclists. Mr. Woodley commented he is not against speed mitigation, but these bumps are unsafe for some people, in addition to slowing down some response times of emergency vehicles.

3. Budget Recommendation related to Emergency Medical Services –Commissioners Webber & Nunez)

- **Jasper Brown, Chief of Staff, Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services**
- **Tony Marquardt, President, Austin-Travis County Emergency Employees Association**

Commissioner Webber commented- this budget recommendation was drafted as a result of information that was presented during the June 2017 budget recommendation for Emergency Medical Services topic at the Public Safety Commission meeting. Since that meeting she did some research on patient care records and the benefits of updated software to current patient care records program. Jasper Brown explained to the board the process used by City of Austin departments when reviewing budget requests. There is a ranking/scoring process on items submitted for funding and this request for updated software (Electronic Patient Care Records) came very close to being approved for funding last year (2016). **Tony Marquardt** –commented that this is the first time a budget recommendation is going forward to council from the PSC board for EMS budget. He was pleased about this recommendation. Per Tony, the current software needs to be updated and this would benefit so many citizens in need of emergency medical assistance as well as the staff attending to the patient to help to save lives. The addition of the updated software would save time for the EMS staff on data entry as well. With less time spent on date entry, this frees up time for staff to spend on/with the patient and communicate with other health establishments or personnel in a much more timely fashion. The recommendation to council is below.



Public Safety Commission Recommendation no. 20170807-003

Budget Recommendation related to Emergency Medical Services
Regarding the need for updated software to record Patient Care Records

Date: August 7, 2017

Motioned by: Rebecca Ruth Webber
Seconded by:

WHEREAS:

EMS responded to 131,007 incidents in fiscal year 2016. Of those incidents, EMS had

contact with patients 100,491 times. In 78,725 instances, EMS transferred a patient.

During each encounter with a patient, EMS has a medical and legal obligation to complete a Patient Care Record. EMS currently uses software to input, track, and store this information. This record is known as the electronic Patient Care Record ("ePCR").

Simultaneous with the patient transfer to a hospital or clinic, EMS must also transfer the patient's essential health information to the patient's subsequent medical provider.

EMS's current software, implemented in 2009, lacks the ability to input, track, and store certain patient information including the following needed functionality:

- Tracking of prescribed controlled medications,
- Community Health program case management,
- Viewing of ePCR from past EMS encounters with repeat patients, and
- Integration with local healthcare partners' patient software programs

For these reasons, the City of Austin IT Governance Board recommended that the City of Austin replace EMS's current ePCR software.

Available newer versions of ePCR software have greater functionality and versatility that would benefit the City of Austin in three important ways:

1. The ability to transfer more and better patient care information will result in improved patient outcomes.
2. More efficient and more versatile ePCR software will save time for frontline medics.
3. Newer software will reduce IT maintenance costs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Public Safety Commission recommends that the Austin City Council adopt the recommendations of the IT Governance Board and purchase a new ePCR product capable of the following:

- Support for controlled medication tracking,
- Community Health program case management,
- Allow EMS Medics to view past medical history for patients previously encountered.
- Integration with hospital or clinic EMR systems using the HL7 standard (An XML based standard),
- Modern user interface that is faster and configurable, and
- A cloud solution where updates to server and core application infrastructure are the responsibility of the vendor.

The Public Safety Commission further recommends that:

- The City of Austin seeks local healthcare partners to share the costs associated with adopting a fully integrated and secure ePCR software.
- All ePRC solutions and/or pilot programs include input from the frontline medics.

Vote of **the Public Safety Commission**

For: Unanimous 11 (Commissioners Webber, Nunez, Holt, Scruggs, Landuyt, Perez, Tyree, Rossmo, Gonzales, Lee and Haley)

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Attest: Janet Jackson, Public Safety Commission Staff Liaison

Item 5 – SAFE HORNS Update – Commissioner Scruggs Item

- Joell McNew, Vice President, Safe Horns

Joell introduced herself to the board and shared information about this newly formed organization as a result of the murder of a freshman UT student in 2016.

- Safe Horns is a year old
- Organized by a group of concerned parents
- Held 1st annual West Campus National Night Out - 2016
- Advocated to City Council for the HOST (Homeless Outreach Street Team) to include West Campus and now HOST serves West Campus two days a week
- Advocated for City of Austin and Austin Energy to provide a lighting study for West Campus. Goal is to have a well-lit neighborhood

Safe Horns is continuing to work towards relationships with many stakeholders in an effort to create positive sustainable change on and around the UT campus. Ms. McNew was open to the suggestions and information PSC board members shared with here. There was discussion on comments from Commissioners, Scruggs, Holt, Rossmo and Lee. Topics discussed were:

- Impact from single sell alcohol, do you think it would make a difference if it would be prohibited
- Have you met/talked to a Austin Police Commander?
- Are you working with UT Administration to address this issue?
- This sounds like a good opportunity for a large scale problem oriented policing project for Austin Police Department and U.T. Police Department
 - o Actual study/analysis of the problem (answering the five Ws)
 - o Look for the trends and problems
- Suggestion to reach out to other universities that are in high crime areas and study steps/action plans they took to make their campus safer
- Keep checking on line assessment item concerning the cost of the lighting study

Commissioner Webber thanked Joell for coming and sharing information on the Safe Horn's efforts.

Item 4 Distracted Driving Ordinance Amendments – Commissioners Scruggs & Tyree

- Scott Johnson, Citizen

Commissioner Webber welcomed Scott Johnson to the meeting and opened the floor for him to present. Mr. Johnson discussed his latest visits to the state legislative sessions and the discussion/testifying on the distracted driving laws. Prior to the meeting Scott had emailed his distracted driving recommendations for vehicles and bicycles for distribution to the board members.

Scott Johnson's Distracted Driving Recommendations for vehicles and bicycles

A) Prohibit the use of a mobile communication device while a vehicle is stopped at a traffic light, a stop sign, in traffic or any other time when the vehicle is in a travel lane, but not in motion other than an emergency situation.

Scott's note: This idea was recommended unanimously by the 2014 COA Distracted Driving Study Group, but was taken out by the former Austin City Council in 2014.

Justification for this recommendation:

Based on my research the other app. 45 Texas cities who have adopted a hands-free ordinance allow for enforcement while the vehicle is in travel lane, but temporarily stopped. Exemptions built into the Austin ordinance allow for phone use in emergency situations by public safety employees and the public.

B) Prohibit the use of music headphones that cover all or most of the entire diameter of the ear or greater. while operating a motor vehicle and are not designed for 2-way communication. Ear buds would be allowed.

Justification for this recommendation:

Listening to music through headphones that cover most or all of the ear create an auditory distraction that competes with the driver's attention. These type of headphones are simply for listening to music and some of them are noise canceling meaning that the sound of a siren on a public safety vehicle is much more difficult to hear. Only headphones that allow 2-way communication and that can be operated hands-free should be allowed.

c) Prohibit the sharing of a video image or still image or the recording of a video image or the taking of a photograph with a mobile communication device or other electronic device by a vehicle passenger while a motor vehicle is in a travel lane.

It is very common to share videos among friends by holding a smart phone in front of the other person's eyes to get a reaction. Some games such as “Pokeman Go” require a site map to find these virtual creatures. When the driver focuses on the smart phone to use as a guide or for enjoyment this can create a significant distraction that can put pedestrians, bicyclists and other vehicle drivers at risk.

Another common activity among friends and family is to take still photos or videos. If the driver turns their head towards the camera while driving this is along with any flash from the camera is a significant distraction that puts at risk all road users.

Commissioner Tyree questioned item B in Scott's recommendation, 'what is the difference between wearing headphones and a deaf person driving? Scott was not able to answer the question, however Mr. Woodley (deaf citizen in attendance) does not agree with the comparison of wearing headphones and a deaf person driving. **Commissioner Tyree** withdrew his question at the end of the presentation. **Commissioner Rossmo** commented the recommendations lack of data was a little frustration in that you need data to support a recommendation. The best approach to the recommendations for distracted driving is more education of the public. **Commissioner Scruggs** commented – there are things in the recommendations that need to be flushed out amongst other boards and committees as well before moving forward with any type of action. Scott Johnson agreed and Commissioner Webber commented he would be invited back because of Commissioner Scruggs's interest in this recommendation/s.

- Item #6. City of Austin Homeless Population – Commissioners Nunez, Rossmo & Scruggs
- Ann Howard, CEO, ECHO (Ending Community Homelessness Coalition)
 - Justin Newsom, Assistant Chief, Austin Police Department

Ann Howard introduced herself to the board and begin with comments on her concern for the safety of students at the U.T. Austin campus considering that she is a Longhorn first; and how much she appreciated the efforts of Safe Horns. She mentioned she is passionate about ending homelessness in this community. I am here to answer any questions of the current state of ending homelessness in Austin. The data I have provided for you is final so please disregard the word “Draft” on the first page. I have met with some of the mothers of Safe Horns and they are doing a great job. I can tell you that every sector across the community is working together to end homelessness (refer to handout for data). During my work here one of the repeated questions was; how many homeless people are there in Austin? One of the things we did was we started an assessment of the homeless to get a picture of what is needed to get the homeless off the street and a count of the homeless. Currently it is about a 93day wait to get housing from the time you enter a shelter. **Dr. Rossmo** commented – this is a good report (Homelessness in Austin Current Needs + Gaps) , In reviewing the data the homeless number went from 800 to 2000. That’s is a big increase.

Questions:

Are more homeless from outside of Austin? It’s important to know because we may need to look to the state for support in helping the homeless. (Rossmo)

In 2013 I decided that we (staff) should ask everybody where they are from? (Howard) By and large the people we are dealing with are from Austin. Houston and Dallas spend a lot more dollars on homeless people because they get more money from the federal government. They’re bigger; they’ve been doing this longer. Austin was celebrated for our work on reaching homeless veterans and housing them. Any homeless that are in Austin, it is not because we have robust services.

What percentages of veterans are homeless? Answer 4%, our outreach to veterans helps to get them back in touch with federal services.

Where are the homeless with the city of Austin? (Scruggs) Is it the drag or Oakhill? How widespread are the homeless around the metro area? We map by precinct and council district. The largest district with most homeless would be Mayor Pro Tem Tovo. The second largest homeless population district would be Council Member Kitchen’s district #5. (Howard)

Are there differences of homeless age as to location i.e. drag or south, etc... **AC Newsom**, homeless people tend to move a lot so we don’t track age. Webber, update us draft budget? Newsom, we are still trying to formulate what we are going to ask for. **AC Gay**, currently no additional personnel, funding will remain at same level. **AC Newsom**, HOST made 1,000 contacts within last year. **Commissioner Perez** asked if there was any specific funding for homeless people with criminal backgrounds.

Commissioner Nunez asked, the reason why more people were sheltered in 2014. Answer, could be that when that particular count was taken some of the churches and recreation centers were open for the cold weather (Howard) . Are the homeless encouraged to get email addressed in hopes of not missing a call or email to notify them when housing has become available? (**Nunez**) Yes, most of the homeless have a cell phone or an email address. They are very resourceful, you would be surprised. (Howard). **Rossmo** – I am asking APD again for EMD maps please.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Map of EMD calls for service (Rossmo)
- Distracted Driving brought back (Scruggs)
- Results of lighting study in West Campus (Scruggs)
- Discussion on traffic calming devices and how they can affect different disabled people (Webber)

Adjournment @ 6pm motioned to adjourn by Commissioner Nunez