



**DOWNTOWN COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023**

The Downtown Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in hybrid meeting format.

**COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

August Harris, Chair	Ben Amstead
Ed Ishmael Jr., Vice-Chair	David Holmes
Liz Coufal	Taylor Major
Darilynn Cardona-Beiler	Sania Shifferd
Kimberly Levinson	

**CITY STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

Christine Maguire, Economic Development Department

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 5:31pm

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the Downtown Commission May 25, 2023, Special Called meeting.
  - a. A motion to approve the minutes was made by *Chair A. Harris* and seconded by *Commissioner K. Levinson* on a vote of (7-0)

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

2. Presentation on the Safer Sixth Initiative to be given by Brian Block of the City of Austin Development Services Department (DSD) and Police Commander Jeff Olson and Lt. Juusola of the Austin Police Department (APD).
  - a. A motion to recommend to City Council the appropriation of \$509,000 to APD to purchase 65 movable vehicle barriers for Downtown safety was made by *Chair A. Harris* and seconded by *Commissioner E. Ishmael* on a vote of (7-0)
  - b. A motion to recommend to City Council actions necessary to keep Downtown safe and welcoming for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning, and Plus (LGBTQ+) individuals was made by *Vice-Chair E. Ishmael* and seconded by *Commissioner L Coufal* on a vote of (6-1)
3. Presentation on the East Sixth Street Public Improvement District to be given by Caitlyn Ryan and Shawn Cirkiel of the Pecan Street Owners Association.

- a. A motion to recommend to City Council approval of the East 6th Street Public Improvement District renewal next year when before Council was made by *Commissioner E. Ishmael* and seconded by *Commissioner K. Levinson* on a vote of (7-0)
4. Presentation on the Downtown Strategic Plan to be given by Melissa Barry of the Downtown Austin Alliance. The Commission may approve a recommendation to Council on this item.

No action taken.

5. Presentation on the Congress Avenue Urban Design Initiative to be given by Laura Dierenfield of the City of Austin Transportation Department, Jana McCann of McCann Adams Studio, and Patrick Benedict of HDR Inc. The Commission may approve a recommendation to Council on this item.

No action taken.

6. Discussion of recent activities and actions taken by the Public Safety Commission.
  - a. *Commissioner Holmes* provided the update that the Commission approved a budget request to City Council, discussed issues related to drug overdose, discussed issues related to Austin Police Department and 311 operator staffing shortages. No action taken.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm without any objection.

*The minutes were approved at the July 19, 2023 Meeting on Commissioner K. Levinson motion, Seconded by Commissioner J. Lickteig on a 7-0 vote.*