



***PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR CALLED MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 5, 2022***

The PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION convened in a REGULAR CALLED meeting on 5th JULY, 2022 at 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Dr. Austin Texas 78752.

Chair Bernhardt called the Public Safety Commission Meeting to order at 4:13p.m.

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance:

Rebecca Bernhardt, Chair

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:

Nelly Ramirez, Vice Chair
Kathleen Hausenfluck
Rebecca Webber
Rebecca Gonzales
Cory Hall-Martin

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Mario Cantu – Public Safety Employees (mainly EMS) Mental Health/Stress

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of June 2022 minutes moved to August 1, 2022 meeting

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

2a. How it Works is Old Business

This topic was not covered at the June 2022 meeting and was moved to July 5, 2022. **Jason Matson**, Austin Police staff and **Sara Peralta** with Office of Police Oversight were the presenters.

Jason Matson presented on APD's data and how to make it available to the public, commenting data transparency is significant to gaining trust with the community. He presented how to access data and data sets via a public portable and showed commissioners how the public can access APD data. The data portable includes data from 2003 to present. There is a need for APD Research and

Planning department to hire more analysts that can help with the numerous requests his unit receives internally and externally. Future goals are to be able to use dashboards for all, evaluate user friendly software that will help to build more transparency. APD is committed to all Open Records laws, Federal, State and local public information laws. Ms. Peralta gave a quick overview on how OPO reports data and informed the board this information (video tutorial on OPO data reporting) is available in Spanish as well. There are some information they can publish like, complaints from community/individual, and some disciplinary documents. She asked commissioners to email any questions they may have directly to her.

One question at the end from Commissioner Rebecca Gonzales –asking if APD Research had ever considered borrow/loaning staff (like data analysts) between City of Austin department to assist with large requests received until additional staff can be added to the department?

3a. Quarterly Stats Report – Austin Fire Department

Rob Vires, Chief of Staff, Austin Fire Department

Chief Vires presented the comparison data for 2021 and 2022 on call volume and response times. The response times were reported by council district. The emergency incident data showed an increase on response time and that is attributed to more people getting out since COVID. The goal for AFD's arrival time is 8minutes or less. Continuing presentation include:

- Growth impact on City of Austin overtime
- Update on Auto Aid (sharing between Travis County and Williamson County)
- Overdose Responses by AFD and an update that currently their trucks have new Pelican cases for proper storage of Naloxone drug to ensure adequate temperature range at all times.
- AFD Shared Investigations with other departments on Arson Fires
- AFD shared Clearance Rate with other departments

Other topics covered by Chief Vires included:

Special Events – AFD is involved with City of Austin Permitting Department to provide inspections for all Special Events are complete prior to the event's approval.

Compliance Engine – this department checks annual fire systems for compliance and reports deficiencies. AFD partnered with Compliance Engine and improved the number of inspections completed.

Chief Vires elaborated on the Red Angels Program, Pass the Torch (a recruiting tool for 18-35yr olds), Fire Explorers Post for 14-20yrs olds, and updated commissioners on current COVID-19 practices at Austin Fire Department. He explained the current practice is that it is not mandatory for staff to test daily, however AFD has test available should any employee wish to take the test.

3b. What is Lexipol

Assistant Chief Mason introduced this item and Lt. Smart who would kick off the presentation.

Lt. Smart gave an overview of Lexipol and what it does for Austin Police Department. The Lexipol software manages new policies and formats and maintains the 800 plus pages document. New policies can be generated by any APD staff and the comments and requests may not be accepted after the suggestions has been floated around via the necessary committee. City of Austin Law Department reviews policy change requests and provides feedback on whether to approve or disapprove. The benefits and costs of Lexipol were discussed and Interim Director, Sylvia Hartman weighed in with OPO (Office of Police Oversight) weighed in that Lexipol's policies are not passed on community input and they would like to see more community input. They don't view Lexipol as a good tool for the community but it is more of a Risk Mgmt tool.

The commissioners in attendance did not view Lexipol software as a cost effective tool for APD. Sgt. Rivera tried to answer all of the questions from Ramirez, Bernhardt, and Webber.

Future Agenda Items:

- How does a police become a policy? What are the steps? (Webber)
- LARD(Long Range Acoustic Device) and protests (Bernhardt)
- Inter-department Cooperation from other police departments i.e. Travis, AISD Campus Police, Sherriff's office, etc... (Ramirez)
- Will APD arrest people trying to get an abortion? (Hall-Martin)
- Would it be possible to downsize/get smaller truck to be used by Public Safety Departments? /Would it help in avoiding accidents? (Bernhardt)

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn from Commissioner Gonzales and Commissioner Webber seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous (Bernhardt, Ramirez, Hall-Martin, Hausenfluck, Gonzales, Webber)

The minutes were approved at the September 13, 2022 meeting on Commissioner Ramirez motion, Commissioner Gonzales second on a 7-0 vote.