



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
REGULAR CALLED MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, February 5, 2024**

**The Public Safety Commission convened in a regular called meeting on Monday, February 5, 2024, at City Hall Building, Boards and Commissions Room, 301 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.**

**Chair Ramírez called the Public Safety Commission Meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.**

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

Nelly Paulina Ramírez, Chair  
Cory Hall-Martin  
Bernard Hermesmeyer  
David Holmes  
Lauren Peña  
Timothy Ruttan

**Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:**

Pierre Nguyễn  
Yasmine Smith

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

**No speakers.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING on January 8, 2024.

**The minutes from the meeting of 01/08/2024, were approved on Commissioner Peña's motion, Commissioner Hermesmeyer's second on a 7-0 vote. Commissioner Nguyễn was off the dais. Commissioners Bernhardt and Orr were absent.**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

2. Discussion on edit to APD's Virtual Magistration Pilot Program presented at January 8, 2024 meeting.

**Chair Ramírez explained that Chief Greenwalt updated the APD Virtual Magistration Pilot Program slide deck on page 3 to reflect a correction on Travis County's proposal for the new annual Interlocal Agreement to read \$10.9 million.**

3. Public Safety Quarterly Report, Austin Fire Department

**Presentation was made by Chief Rob Vires, Austin Fire Department.**

**Commissioner Ruttan asked for clarification on AFD Recruiting's demographic numbers on slide 19.**

4. Discussion of policing and disabilities with the Office of Police Oversight, Austin Police Department.

**Presentation was made by Lindsay Southard, Community Engagement Specialist and Sara Peralta, Public Information and Marketing Manager, Office of Police Oversight, and Brienz Edwards, Training Specialist, APD Training Academy.**

**Chair Ramírez requested data on police encounters. Commissioner Holmes seconded request for data specifically around the percentage of individuals experiencing force who were perceived to be mentally impaired.**

### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

5. Discussion of Public Safety Wellness Center and potential formation of working group.  
(Sponsors: Commissioners Nguyễn & Peña)

**Presentation was made by Heather Arispe, Public Safety Wellness Administrator, Department.**

**The motion to approve the formation of a working group to establish the needs of the Public Safety Wellness Center and potentially form recommendations was approved on Commissioner Nguyễn's motion, Commissioner Peña's second on an 8-0 vote. Commissioners Bernhardt and Orr were absent. Commissioners Nguyễn, Peña, Holmes and Ruttan volunteered to join the working group with Chair Ramírez's approval.**

6. Discussion and potential formation of Budget Recommendations Working Group.  
(Sponsors: Commissioners Ruttan and Peña)

**The motion to approve the formation of a Fiscal Year 25 Budget Recommendations Working Group was approved on Chair Ramírez's motion, Commissioner Ruttan's second on an 8-0 vote. Commissioners Bernhardt and Orr were absent. Chair Ramírez, Commissioners Peña and Ruttan volunteered to join the working group.**

### **WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

7. Collective Sex Crimes Response Model (CSCRM) Joint Working Group with Commission for Women Update (Sponsors: Commissioners Ramírez and Orr)  
**No update given.**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Commissioner Smith requested communications protocols between 311 and 911 operators and first responders for addressing needs of the unhoused during inclement weather. Chair Ramírez seconded.

Chair Ramírez requested a fleet update with a focus on modernizing, fuel efficiency and reducing the carbon footprint. Commissioner Nguyễn seconded.

Commissioner Nguyễn requested an update on parental leave for employees in uniformed services/sworn duty as opposed to the same leave for regular City of Austin employees.

Commissioner Ruttan requested an update on opioid responses and a follow-up on the virtual magistration. Chair Ramírez confirmed.

Chair Ramírez requested an update on SB 4, cadet training at the Academy and from Interim Police Chief Henderson.

**Chair Ramírez adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m. without objection.**

**The minutes were approved at the March 4, 2024, meeting on Commissioner Bernhardt's motion, Commissioner Nguyễn's second on an 8-0 vote. Commissioners Hall-Martin and Hermesmeier were absent.**

