



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR CALLED MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 5, 2025**

The Public Safety Commission convened in a regular called meeting on Monday, May 5, 2025, at Austin City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room, 301 W 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Ramírez called the Public Safety Commission Meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Commissioners in Attendance:

- Nelly Paulina Ramírez, Chair
- Timothy Ruttan, Vice Chair
- Rebecca Bernhardt
- Kimberly Hidrogo

Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:

- Angel Carroll
- Enrique Duran II
- David Holmes
- Pierre Nguyễn
- Kristy Orr
- Michael Sierra-Arévalo

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Public Safety Commission regular meeting on April 7, 2025.
The motion to approve the minutes of the Public Safety Commission regular meeting on April 7, 2025, was approved on Vice Chair Ruttan’s motion, Commissioner Bernhardt’s second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Smith was absent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Public Safety Quarterly Report, Austin Fire Department.
The presentation was made by Rob Vires, Chief of Staff, Austin Fire Department.

Chair Ramírez asked for a follow up on what percentage of fire stations now have portable generators.

3. Discussion of sexual assault data with Austin Police Department, The SAFE Alliance, Travis County District Attorney's Office, Austin Travis County Sexual Assault Response and Resource Team (SARRT), and members of the Collective Sex Crimes Response Model Project (CSCRM).

Withdrawn.

4. Presentation on firefighter cancer prevention and changes in funding for continued tracking of efforts by Austin Fire Department.

The presentation was made by Rob Vires, Chief of Staff, Austin Fire Department and Heather Arispe, Public Safety Wellness Administrator, Austin Fire Department.

Vice Chair Ruttan asked for a follow up on whether the City of Austin tracks or screens for certain cancers that may be considered a presumptive disability.

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

5. Update from the Training Academy Working Group on scheduled tour of APD Training Academy.

Discussed.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

6. Approve updates to the membership of the Training Academy Working Group.

The motion to approve Commissioner Hidrogo's addition to the Training Academy Working Group was approved on Vice Chair Ruttan's motion, Commissioner Bernhardt's second, on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Smith was absent.

7. Discussion and update on the work of the Wellness Center Working Group and approve the dissolution of the Wellness Center Working Group.

The motion to dissolve the Wellness Center Working Group was approved on Commissioner Bernhardt's motion, Commissioner Nguyễn's second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Smith was absent.

8. Discussion of Public Safety Commission bylaws and applicable city code and formation of working group to assess and recommend changes.

The motion to approve the formation of a working group to assess and recommend bylaw changes was approved on Vice Chair Ruttan's motion, Chair Ramírez's second, on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Smith was absent.

Commissioners Bernhardt, Carroll, Nguyễn, Orr, and Ruttan were added to the working group without objection.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Automated license reader update

Office of Police Oversight

Severe weather update – seasonal

Safety for LGBTQ and Trans communities

EMS response system changes (transport policies)

Forensic Science Center

Alternative Vehicles in Fleet Services

911 Call Center (Risk Terrain Modeling)

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ramírez adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved at the July 7, 2025, meeting on Vice Chair Ruttan’s motion, Commissioner Bernhardt’s second on a 7-0 vote. Commissioner Smith abstained. Commissioners Nguyễn, Orr, and Sierra-Arévalo were absent.