



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
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Meeting Minutes Public Safety Standing Committee

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

Committee Members

The Honorable Reva Trammell – Chair
The Honorable Kristen Nye – Member

Absent

The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Vice Chair

Others in Attendance

LaTanja Davenport, Council Budget Analyst
Greg Lukanuski, Deputy City Attorney
Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Rebecca Sullivan, Assistant City Clerk
Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Reva Trammell called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Assistant City Clerk Rebecca Sullivan provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with citizen speaker guidelines.

Public Comment Period

Melissa Wynn requested action from City Council to address violence in the city jail.

Laurence West, BLMRVA Founder, stated his concerns regarding the safety of inmates at the city jail.

Felicia Roberts shared her concerns regarding the safety and quality of life of the inmates at the city jail.

Brandon Fountain, BLMRVA CEO, requested more accountability for the safety of the inmates at the city jail.

Rose Hines requested help from committee members regarding the health and safety of her son at the city jail.

Leslie Cox shared her concern for the safety of the inmates at the city jail.

Keith Andes, President of the Richmond Professional Firefighters Association I.A.F.F. Local 995, shared his concern for the mental health crisis experienced by firefighters across the country. Mr. Andes also requested assistance from Council regarding determining a way for city firefighters to access the mental health employee leave that was available for city employees.

Chair Reva Trammell expressed her concern for the safety of the inmates at the city jail.

Member Kristen Nye expressed her concern for the safety of the inmates at the city jail, and she elaborated on ways in which individuals could further address the issues at the city jail.

Chair Trammell elaborated on the limits of the Public Safety Standing Committee and City Council management of city jail operations, and she suggested ways in which interested individuals could further pursue the issue with other city officials.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of March 28, 2023 and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2023.136](#) March 28, 2023 Public Safety Meeting Minutes

Presentation(s)

Fire Safety and School Inspections

Fire Chief Melvin D. Carter provided the committee with a presentation regarding fire prevention in Richmond Public Schools (RPS). Specifically, Chief Carter reported on the audit that had been recently completed to find recommendations for improving the school fire inspection program.

Member Kristen Nye asked for more information regarding the longevity and consistency of the new school fire inspection program. Member Nye also asked for clarification on the organization financially responsible for public school fire code violations.

Chief Carter assured the committee that the new inspection program would be enforced consistently in the future. Chief Carter also explained that RPS would be the organization responsible for any costs associated with addressing fire code violations on RPS property.

Member Nye shared her support for funding RPS costs necessary to maintain fire safety at local schools.

Chair Reva Trammell inquired as to the status of the telephone digit changes on the alarm dialers at local schools.

Chief Carter confirmed the alarm dialer problem had been resolved.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.163](#) Fire Safety and School Inspections Presentation

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2023-128](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Procurement Services, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute the sixth Contract Modification to Contract No. 16000022041 between the City and Manchester Marketing, Inc. T/A Seibert's Towing for towing-related services and tow lot operation for the purpose of documenting the exercise of the third renewal option of Contract No. 16000022041.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Forwarded to the May 8, 2023 Council meeting with recommendation to approve

Lynne Lancaster, Department of Public Works Deputy Director, introduced the ordinance and explained the towing contract.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Kristen Nye moved to forward ORD. 2023-128 to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following resolutions were considered:

2. [RES. 2023-R021](#) To repeal Res. No. 2009-R22-30, adopted Mar. 9, 2009, concerning a major snowstorm, Res. No. 2011-R93-92, adopted Sept. 6, 2011, concerning Hurricane Irene, Res. No. 2020-R041, Jun. 8, 2020, concerning civil unrest, and Res. No. 2021-R006, adopted Jan. 11, 2021, concerning potential civil unrest, for the purpose of terminating

the respective states of emergency.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Forwarded to the May 8, 2023 Council meeting with recommendation to approve

3. [RES. 2023-R022](#) To repeal Res. No. 2020-R025, adopted Mar. 16, 2020, and concur with the Mayor's judgment that all emergency actions have been taken with regard to and therefore end the local emergency that existed as a result of the potential spread of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus known as "COVID-19," to which the Council consented via Res. No. 2020-R025, adopted Mar. 16, 2020.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Forwarded to the May 8, 2023 Council meeting with recommendation to approve

Stephen Willoughby, Director of Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response, explained that the emergency declarations were no longer necessary because the specific emergencies had concluded.

Member Kristen Nye asked if new systems would be created to deal with future declarations.

Mr. Willoughby explained the new sunset clauses that would allow declarations of emergency to expire after a set time period.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Kristen Nye moved to forward RES. 2023-R021 and RES. 2023-R022 to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following resolution was considered:

4. [RES. 2023-R023](#) To overrule the decision of the City Planning Commission denying approval of the City's application to relocate the Department of Fire and Emergency Services training facility to the Hickory Hill Community Center located at 3000 East Belt Boulevard. (8th District)

Patrons: Ms. Trammell and Mayor Stoney

Forwarded to the May 8, 2023 Council meeting with recommendation to approve

Fire Chief Melvin D. Carter introduced the proposed resolution and elaborated on why the new training center was important to the city's overall public safety.

Chair Reva Trammell expressed her support for the fire department and her excitement for the new fire training center at the Hickory Hill Community Center. Chair Trammell elaborated on the importance of the services that the fire training center would provide the local community.

Public Hearing

There were no public speakers.

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Kristen Nye moved to forward RES. 2023-R023 to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Discussion Item(s)

City Noise Ordinance Enforcement

Interim Chief of Police Rick Edwards answered questions and concerns from the committee members regarding the city's noise enforcement policies and procedures. Chief Edwards suggested requiring additional consequences for noise violations in order to enable successful enforcement.

Greg Lukanuski, Deputy City Attorney, shared information on the specific consequences for noise violations currently available to the city.

Member Kristen Nye requested a solution to the enforcement issue to be available within the next 30 days.

Interim Chief Edwards shared that solutions on noise enforcement would be available at the next Public Safety Standing Committee meeting.

Board Vacancies

Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

Member Kristen Nye moved to forward the following board reappointment applications to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Advisory Board for the Assessment of Towing Fees and the Storage of Vehicles:

Charlie Woodson, Jr. (reappointment)

Mathew Appleget (reappointment)

Community Criminal Justice Board:

Dr. John Lindstrom (reappointment)

Richmond Ambulance Authority:

Joseph Trapani (reappointment)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.154](#) April 25, 2023 Board Vacancy Report

Staff Report

Steve Taylor, Council Budget Analyst, provided the committee with the April staff report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.137](#) April 25, 2023 Public Safety Standing Committee Staff Report

Chip Decker, Richmond Ambulance Authority CEO, provided the committee with a status report on the Richmond Ambulance Authority operations for the month of April.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.