



City of Richmond

Meeting Minutes

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk

Public Safety Standing Committee

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

12:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Reva Trammell – Chair
The Honorable Kim Gray – Vice Chair
Richard Hill, Assistant City Attorney
Jamie Isley, Assistant City Clerk
Allison Miessler, Boards and Commissions Administrator
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Absent

The Honorable Chris Hilbert – Committee Member

Call to Order

Chairwoman Reva Trammell called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m., and presided.

Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Assistant City Clerk Jamie Isley 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

Steven Barrett addressed the committee regarding the 7-Eleven convenience store located at Walmsley Boulevard and Broad Rock Boulevard, and the increase of large trucks in the area which regularly encroach onto Southall Avenue.

Keith Andes, IAFF Local 995 union president, informed the committee of two bills being considered by the Virginia General Assembly; Senate Bill 9, which adds several types of cancer experienced by firefighters under the coverage of workers compensation and Senate Bill 561, which defines post-traumatic stress disorder as an occupational disease for firefighters, emergency medical responders and law enforcement officers.

Regina Dixon, Southall Civic Association and Neighbors, expressed frustration at the lack of public input regarding the rezoning of the 7-Eleven convenience store located at Walmsley Boulevard and Broad Rock Boulevard. She informed the committee that the additional driveway encroaches on Southall Avenue, where large tractor trailers regularly travel and disrupt traffic in the area.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell requested city administration assist Ms. Dixon with her issue.

Bill Pantele, Richmond Coalition of Police representative, requested Council consider an increase in the starting pay for police officers due to the growing Richmond population and competitive pay rates in the surrounding counties. He also requested Council consider additional funding for equipment improvement during the budget process.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of Tuesday, January 28, 2020, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

Board Vacancies

Allison Miessler, boards and commissions administrator, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

Vice Chair Kim Gray moved to forward the following appointments to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

Board Name	Criteria for Appointment	Applicant Name
Advisory Board for the Assessment of Towing Fees and the Storage of Vehicles (7 members)	Towing Operator* (1 vacancy)	Charles Woodson, Jr. (8th District Employment)
	Citizen Representative* (1 vacancy)	Mathew Appleget (3rd District Resident)

* Applicants must either reside or work in the city.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Presentations

Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA) Annual Report

Chip Decker, Richmond Ambulance Authority chief executive officer, presented an overview of RAA initiatives, statistics regarding calls for service and financial needs. Mr. Decker informed the committee of the processes, challenges and new technology regarding the opioid overdose epidemic. He also mentioned the RAA cadet program, which is intended to mold and retain employees long term.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell requested all members of Council be provided with the RAA annual report.

A copy of the presentation has been filed.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Overview

Danny Avula, MD, Richmond City and Henrico County Health Districts director, and Michael Colman, Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA) chief operating officer, provided the committee with an update on the status of COVID-19, and best practices for prevention. Dr. Avula informed the committee that while there have been no confirmed cases in Virginia, the District of Columbia and Maryland, residents should continue to take precautions such as hand washing. Mr. Colman explained RAA's process for infectious diseases to include prevention, sanitation, screening measures, and employee safety.

Vice Chair Kim Gray inquired about COVID-19 diagnostic criteria and symptoms.

Dr. Avula clarified several misconceptions about COVID-19, stating that the case fatality rate is not as extreme as previously thought; and that the overseas fatality rate may be impacted by health care infrastructure deficiencies in supporting patients throughout the process. Dr. Avula informed the committee

that COVID-19 is a common respiratory virus that mutated within an animal and was reintroduced to humans who have no vaccine or anti-viral to treat the brand new disease. He informed the committee of several symptoms associated with COVID-19, and explained that the most often cardiac arrest is the cause of death in patient fatalities.

Paper(s) for Consideration

There were no papers for consideration.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no items for discussion.

Staff Report

Steve Taylor, Council policy analyst, provided the committee with the February staff report.

Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney Colette McEachin was present to answer questions from the committee.

Vice Chair Kim Gray expressed support for efforts to keep violent offenders from reoffending while released on their own recognizance, and inquired about introducing common sense Council measures to assist prosecutors.

Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney McEachin explained the process for releasing a defendant on recognizance, and reasons why the court may decide to hold a defendant: danger to the community, danger to self, or risk of absconding.

Chairwoman Trammell inquired about judges who have been lenient regarding trespassing.

Commonwealth's Attorney McEachin informed the committee that an agent of the owner has the authority to ban or bar a person for trespassing, and that judges decide if there is sufficient evidence to prove that a person is the agent of the owner. She stated that without sufficient evidence to prove agency, there is no one present in court with authority to ban the trespasser. She also clarified that the police can only arrest or issue a summons to an individual for a trespassing misdemeanor if the offense is witnessed in person, otherwise the resident must take out a warrant via the magistrate.

Councilwoman Trammell invited Commonwealth's Attorney McEachin to attend a future meeting of the Richmond Southside 8th Voter District.

A copy of the report provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.