



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk

Meeting Minutes - Draft Public Safety Standing Committee

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

Committee Members

The Honorable Reva Trammell – Chair
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Vice Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Member
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Council Member

Others in Attendance

Greg Lukanuski, Deputy City Attorney
Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

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

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst, 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.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell recessed the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell reconvened the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of Tuesday, September 27, 2022, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2022.350](#) September 27, 2022 Public Safety Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20220927 Public Safety Minutes - Draft](#)

Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2022-289](#) To repeal City Code §§ 2-375-2-377, concerning emergency management, to amend ch. 2, art. IV, div. 20 of the City Code by adding therein new §§ 2-730-2-732, and to amend City Code §§ 2-728, concerning the creation of the Department of Emergency Communications, 2-729, concerning certain emergency communications agreements and fees, 10-48, concerning definitions for the administration of burglar alarms, 10-50, concerning duties of alarm companies, 10-51, concerning duties of alarm users, and 10-52, concerning alarm permit requirements, for the purpose of moving emergency management functions to the City's Department of Emergency Communications and changing the name of the Department of Emergency Communications to the Department of Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-289](#)

Stephen Willoughby, Department of Emergency Communications Director and Coordinator of Emergency Communications, introduced ORD. 2022-289. Mr. Willoughby stated that the organizational change will create a more sharpened focus on coordinated response to emergencies and incidents.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert inquired about the fiscal impact and potential staffing challenges to the Department of Emergency Communications.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward ORD. 2022-289 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Discussion Item(s)

Chairwoman Reva Trammell expressed her frustration that Police Chief Gerald Smith was not present to discuss public safety matters such as the increase in crime and homicides, drug overdoses and police morale. Chairwoman Trammell requested that Police Chief Smith attend the next committee meeting to discuss such matters.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert recommended that the committee receive reports from the police chief, the fire chief, the Richmond Ambulance Authority and the Department of Emergency Communications at its monthly committee meetings. Vice Chair Lambert requested that Council's staff provide an update to the committee regarding police morale, the status of the staffing of violence interrupter positions, and efforts to reduce gun violence and drug overdoses.

Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst, reported that he has been working with city administration to develop an outline of information to present to the committee.

Chairwoman Trammell requested a monthly update from the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, and also requested that the police chief provide an update on public safety subject matters at the next Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting scheduled for November 7, 2022.

Councilor Katherine Jordan expressed her support of having an update from the police chief at the next Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting. Councilor Jordan also requested an update at the Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting regarding the city's Project HOPE (Homeless Outreach Partnerships Enforcement).

Mr. Willoughby reported that the Richmond Police Department (RPD) plans to provide information on Operation Red Ball and the gun buy back program at the November Public Safety Standing Committee meeting.

Councilor Katherine Jordan exited the meeting at 1:23 p.m.

Board Vacancies

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

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward the following board appointment and reappointment applications to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

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

Harold Giles (reappointment)

Christopher Gleason (reappointment)

Richmond Ambulance Authority:

Joseph Trapani

A copy of the material provided has been filed and can be accessed below.

[CD.2022.351](#) Board Vacancy Report - Public Safety Standing Committee

Attachments: [20221025 - Public Safety - Vacancy Packet](#)

Staff Report

Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst, provided the committee with the October staff report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed and can be accessed below.

[CD.2022.364](#) October 25, 2022 Public Safety Standing Committee Staff Report

Attachments: [20221025 - Public Safety Standing Committee Revised](#)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.