



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes Public Safety Standing Committee

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

12:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

Committee Members

The Honorable Reva Trammell – Chair

Absent

The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Vice Chair

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Member

Others in Attendance

Greg Lukanuski, Deputy City Attorney

Pamela Nichols, Senior Assistant City Clerk

Candice Reid, City Clerk

RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chairwoman Reva Trammell called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Senior Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols 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

Glenwood Burley expressed his concern that the Richmond Police Memorial statue, which was removed from Byrd Park, had not been erected in a permanent location. Mr. Burley stated he had spoken with the former governor of Virginia about the relocation of the statue on the grounds of the Virginia State Capitol. Mr. Burley asked Chairwoman Trammell for her support in the relocation of the statue. Mr. Burley provided a copy of a newspaper advertisement to the Virginia House of Delegates requesting that the statue be relocated.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell expressed her support to have the statue relocated to the Virginia State Capitol grounds.

Charles Davis, former Richmond Sheriff's Deputy, made comments relative to safety needs for sheriff's deputies. Mr. Davis further commented about the day he was allegedly assaulted in the line of duty and he spoke about legal challenges he had faced following the attack. Mr. Davis asked that new standards be implemented within the City Justice Center to ensure employee safety.

Keith Andes, International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 995 President, expressed his concerns relative to the current vacancies in the Richmond Fire Department, and he recommended a new process for filling vacancies of firefighters who are retiring. Mr. Andes further expressed his concerns regarding flaws with the current pay plan for firefighters.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell discussed her concerns impacting Richmond firefighters relative to vacancies, safety, and pay. Chairwoman Trammell advised Mr. Andes that the city's adoption of collective bargaining will provide opportunities for interest groups to participate in discussions with city leaders regarding adequate pay. Chairwoman Trammell further discussed her concern relative to the number of firefighters assigned to each fire engine, as a result of inadequate staffing.

Richmond Fire Chief Melvin Carter explained the department's fire engine assignments and stated that some engines have a three person crew during certain hours and the weekends. Fire Chief Carter reported the status of current and future fire training academies. Fire Chief Carter further reported that he was working with city leaders to increase staffing, as well as plans for the construction of a new fire station near Whitcomb Court. Chief Carter stated that he was concerned about staffing impacts, and that he would continue to explore avenues to alleviate staffing shortages and to ensure the safety of firefighters. Fire Chief Carter also responded to questions relative to the replacement of Richmond Fire Station 21.

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

[CD.2022.300](#) July 26, 2022 Public Safety - Citizen Comment

Attachments: [After Item - 20220726 Public Safety - Citizen Comment - Glenwood Burley](#)

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes was not considered due to lack of a quorum.

[CD.2022.263](#) June 28, 2022 Public Safety Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20220628 Public Safety Minutes - Draft](#)

Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

Paper(s) for Consideration

There were no papers for consideration.

Discussion Item(s)

Sheriff's Department Process for Securing Inmates with Mental Illnesses and Personnel Safety

Sheriff Antionette Irving presented an overview of mental health resources provided by the Sheriff's department for sworn and civilian employees and their families. Sheriff Irving stated that approximately half of the inmates at the Justice Center were classified as violent offenders, and that she and department leaders were taking steps to ensure the safety of its employees and inmates. Sheriff Irving responded to questions regarding vacancies and competitive salaries.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell expressed her concerns about reports she had received about a lack of safety for employees and inmates at the Justice Center.

Sheriff Irving responded to concerns expressed by Councilwoman Trammell. She reported that she had acquired additional resources to provide mental health support for the employees and inmates. Sheriff Irving explained the mental health assessment process for inmates and expressed her desire for a new mental health treatment facility within the Justice Center. Sheriff Irving encouraged Councilwoman Trammell to contact her when she receives complaints regarding matters concerning the Justice Center.

[CD.2022.265](#) Sheriff's Department Process for Securing Mentally Ill Inmates

Attachments: [20220726 Public Safety - Mental Health Overview](#)
[20220726 Public Safety - RSCO Publication - Communication Confidence and Consistency](#)

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies for review.

Staff Report

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

[CD.2022.264](#) July 26, 2022 Public Safety Standing Committee Staff Report

Attachments: [20220726 Public Safety - Staff Report](#)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.