City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes
Public Safety Standing Committee

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 | **1:00 PM** | **Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall**

Committee Members in Attendance

The Honorable Reva Trammell – Chair
The Honorable Sarah Abubaker – Member

Absent

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Vice Chair

Staff and Others in Attendance

Greg Lukanuski, Deputy City Attorney
Nahdiyah Muhammad, Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst

Call to Order

Chair Reva Trammell called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Public Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Nahdiyah Muhammad provided information on the appropriate way to evacuate the Council Chamber in an emergency along with public speaker guidelines.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of April 22, 2025 and May 29, 2025, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

CD.2025.205 April 22, 2025 - Public Safety Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: 20250422 Public Safety Minutes - DRAFT

CD.2025.206 May 29, 2025 - Public Safety Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: 20250529 Public Safety Minutes - DRAFT

Presentation(s)

Richmond Police Department (RPD) Environmental Officers and Operations Update

Chief of Police Rick Edwards, presented the committee with updates regarding RPD environmental officers and their operations. Chief Edwards stated that RPD environmental officers work with other city agencies to enforce code violations.

The committee requested additional information regarding environmental officers, the Hope outreach team, and the Community Response Team (CRT) having civilians as staff, the number of active environmental officers recruited, and resident environmental concerns.

Chief Edwards responded that officers were sworn police officers and there could potentially be more opportunities to civilianize some of the roles but stated that these roles benefited from being occupied by sworn police officers due to the issuing of citations. Chief Edwards stated that RPD currently only had one environmental officer. Chief Edwards also stated that there were bandwidth concerns within RPD.

Chief Edwards continued to discuss the operations of RPD environmental officers with the committee.

Code Enforcement Updates

Kevin Vonck, Director of the Department of Planning and Development Review (PDR), presented the committee with code enforcement updates.

CD.2025.219 June 24, 2025 - Code Enforcement Updates Presentation

Attachments: 20250624 Code Enforcement Updates

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

The committee requested additional information regarding the status of the reporting of inspections, proactive vs. reactive code enforcement, staffing impact of the proposed rental inspection program, considerations of properties developing greener sustainability practices, response times to complaints, and notice of violation time frame for the rental inspection program.

Director Vonck provided the committee with additional information regarding no violation observed, compliant, and non-compliant. Mr. Vonck stated that the workload volume was more reactive and responsive, and that the Department of Planning and Development Review (PDR) was working toward finding a balance within code enforcement to manage the workload. Mr. Vonck also stated that more discussion would be necessary to potentially establish rental inspection districts to evaluate additional staffing needs. Mr. Vonck further stated that standard operating procedures would need to establish guidelines for greener sustainability. Mr. Vonck stated that the rental inspection program would mostly focus on the most extreme cases of violation.

Greg Lukanuski, Deputy City Attorney, provided the committee with additional information regarding notices of code violations.

Director Vonck continued to discuss code enforcement updates with the committee.

Paper(s) for Consideration

There were no papers for consideration.

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items.

Staff Report

Council staff provided the committee with the June Public Safety staff report.

CD.2025.222 June 24, 2025 - Public Safety Staff Report

Attachments: 20250624 Public Safety Staff Report

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.