



# City of Richmond

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

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Tuesday, September 27, 2022

12:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

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### Committee Members

The Honorable Reva Trammell – Chair  
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Vice Chair  
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Ex-Officio Member  
The Honorable Michael Jones – Councilor (early departure)

### Absent

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Member

### Others in Attendance

Greg Lukanuski, Deputy City Attorney  
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 12:07 p.m., and presided.

### Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

City Clerk Candice Reid 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

Keith Andes, International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 995 President, expressed his appreciation for the new pay plan for firefighters and Council's adoption of a collective bargaining agreement.

*Chairwoman Reva Trammell informed Mr. Andes that she would like to have a follow-up conversation with him regarding the increase in cancer diagnoses for firefighters.*

Bill Pantele, Richmond Coalition of Police (RCOP) Representative, reported that Council's adoption of the collective bargaining agreement has had positive reactions from Richmond police officers. Mr. Pantele mentioned that the demographics structure of the Richmond Police Department and RCOP were similar and that he was willing to share the data with interested parties.

### Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of Tuesday, June 28, 2022 and Tuesday, July 26, 2022, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

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

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

[CD.2022.318](#) July 26, 2022 Public Safety Meeting Minutes

**Attachments:** [20220726 Public Safety Minutes - Draft](#)

### Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2022-261](#) To amend ch. 2, art. V of the City Code by adding therein a new div. 20 (§§ 2-1202.1-2-1202.5) for the purpose of establishing a Civilian Review Board.

**Patrons:** Mayor Stoney, Mr. Jones, Ms. Lynch, Mr. Addison and Ms. Lambert

**Attachments:** [Ord. No. 2022-261](#)

[Richmond Civilian Review Board Proposal - City Administration Presentation](#)

Maggie Anderson, Office of the Mayor Chief of Staff, presented an overview of the timeline, composition and responsibilities of the revised proposal for the Civilian Review Board (CRB). Ms. Anderson explained the next steps included Council's hiring of an associated staffer within 90 days of passage of the legislation. She further explained that the new staffer would work the Office of the City Attorney to craft policies and procedures to guide the board, and the appointment of board members would follow the adoption of the policies and procedures.

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

### Public Hearing

Bill Pantele, Richmond Coalition of Police (RCOP) Representative, not speaking in support or opposition, urged the committee to consider the safety and constitutional rights of police officers, and the scope of work for the proposed CRB. In response to a question by Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert, Mr. Pantele explained instances where police officers' personal information was circulated through social media networks.

Maisie Osteen, Legal Aid Justice Center attorney, Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project (RTAP) member, spoke in opposition to ORD. 2022-261 stating her concerns regarding the review of all investigations by RPD, and the lack of the board's ability to review and make recommendations relative to RPD's annual budget. Ms. Osteen stated that the proposed legislation does not capture the will of the community.

*Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert expressed her concerns regarding ORD. 2022-261, and suggested that the committee continue the proposed legislation to allow for additional discussions regarding key issues.*

*Councilor Michael Jones expressed his opposition to a continuation of ORD. 2022-261, and recommended that the committee forward ORD. 2022-261 to Council with no recommendation. Councilor Jones commented that he met with RTAP and interested parties on the collaboration of the proposed ordinance.*

*Vice Chair Lambert and Council President Cynthia Newbille asked Ms. Osteen to provide the committee with a list of recommendations from RTAP.*

Tom Barbour, Richmond City Democratic Committee Resolution Committee Chair, lawyer, spoke in opposition to ORD. 2022-261 as it is currently written. Mr. Barbour stated the proposed legislation lacks disciplinary measures and should be amended to include such measures.

*Vice Chair Lambert expressed her support for reimagining public safety, and stated that she would like to ensure that the concerns of the city's residents were addressed. Vice Chair Lambert requested that ORD. 2022-261 be amended to include a five-year residency requirement for board members.*

**Vice Chair Lambert moved to forward ORD. 2022-261 to Council with the recommendation to approve with amendment, which was seconded.**

*Council President Newbille stated that the proposed legislation was a good first step in the creation of a Civilian Review Board, and she also stated it is anticipated that changes will be required.*

*Chairwoman Reva Trammell stated that she supported a CRB; however, she does not support ORD. 2022-261 as written.*

**The motion was unanimously approved.**

*Vice Chair Lambert stated that she would like to include additional language that members of the CRB be required to attend training conducted by RPD.*

*Chairwoman Trammell expressed her support of RPD officers.*

*Councilor Michael Jones exited the meeting at 1:22 p.m.*

**The following resolution was considered:**

2. [RES. 2022-R061](#) To impose enhanced speeding penalties pursuant to City Code § 27-163 and to authorize the placement of signs giving notice thereof on the portion of West Laburnum Avenue located between Rosedale Avenue and the City's corporate boundary with Henrico County.

**Patrons:** Ms. Lambert and Ms. Jordan

**Attachments:** [Res. No. 2022-R061](#)

*Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert introduced RES. 2022-R061.*

### Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

**There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward RES. 2022-R061 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

### The following resolution was considered:

3. [RES. 2022-R062](#) To consent to the Mayor's appointment of Stephen M. Willoughby to the position of Coordinator of Emergency Management pursuant to Va. Code § 44-146.19(B)(1) and City Code § 2-376(a).

**Patrons:** Mayor Stoney and Ms. Lambert

**Attachments:** [Res. No. 2022-R062](#)

Lincoln Saunders, Chief Administrative Officer, introduced RES. 2022-R062.

Stephen Willoughby, Department of Emergency Communications Director, was present to respond to questions.

*Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert requested to be added as a co-patron to RES. 2022-R062.*

*Chairwoman Reva Trammell asked about emergency notification for senior residents who do not rely on electronic notifications.*

Mr. Saunders stated that city administration was working on communications options to support all residents.

Mr. Willoughby encouraged residents who do not have text or email notification alerts to contact the Office of Emergency Management for enrollment in the city's CodeRED emergency notification system.

*Vice Chair Lambert asked Mr. Willoughby to provide the committee with additional information regarding the city's CodeRED emergency notification.*

### Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

**There were no further comments or discussions and Council President Cynthia Newbille moved to forward RES. 2022-R062 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following resolution was considered:**

4. [RES. 2022-R067](#) To approve and adopt the Richmond-Crater Multi-Region Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**Patrons:** Mayor Stoney

**Attachments:** [Res. No. 2022-R067](#)

Stephen Willoughby, Department of Emergency Communications Director, introduced RES. 2022-R067, and acknowledged that Anthony Mclean, Fire and Emergency Services Deputy Director, was present to respond to questions.

### Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

**There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward RES. 2022-R067 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

### Presentation(s)

#### Fire Department Quarterly Report

Assistant Chief of Support Services Steven Hall Jr., presented an overview of the Richmond Fire Department's quarterly report for emergency medical service calls, fire or other responses and working incidents. Mr. Hall reported on turnout times for fire and emergency services, the department's attrition/hiring, and overtime totals. He also reported that 27 recruits were expected to graduate on October 20, 2022. Assistant Chief Hall presented information on FY 22 automatic aid and mutual aid given to and received from Chesterfield County, and he noted the number of Fire Marshal's office (FMO) inspections. He explained that the city plans to enroll in IROL, a new permitting and inspection tracking system, and reported on critical fire station and fleet issues. Assistant Chief Hall announced that the fire department performed sixteen successful return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) incidents, and was awarded a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant from FEMA.

*Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert and Council President Cynthia Newbille expressed thier appreciation to the Fire Department.*

Fire Chief Melvin Carter announced that the Fire Department was awarded grant funds to replace the old burn building which had been condemned . Fire Chief Carter reported on the success of a recent hiring event, and noted additional hiring events scheduled for other areas in the city.

*Chairwoman Reva Trammell expressed her thanks to the Fire Department for its response to a fire which impacted her personal residence.*

Fire Chief Carter expressed his appreciation to Assistant Chief Hall for his work in obtaining the SAFER grant for the Fire Department.

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

[CD.2022.329](#) Fire Department Quarterly Report Presentation

**Attachments:** [20220927 Fire Department Quarterly Report Presentation](#)

### **Mental Health Assistance for Emergency Communications 911 Employees**

*Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert advised Stephen Willoughby, Department of Emergency Communications Director, that the committee did not require a presentation of the information he had provided.*

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

[CD.2022.328](#) 911 Employees Mental Health Presentation

**Attachments:** [20220927 911 Employees Mental Health Presentation](#)

Chip Decker, Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA) Chief Executive Officer, provided a brief update on RAA's staffing level. Mr. Decker announced that an independent external review of RAA's organization was currently being conducted.

### **Discussion Item(s)**

#### **Officer Availability, Crime and Enforcement Concerns**

Police Chief Gerald Smith provided an update on RPD's violence interrupter positions.

*Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert expressed her appreciation to the Richmond Police Department.*

*Chairwoman Reva Trammell asked Chief Smith about RPD's recruitment practices.*

Chief Smith advised the committee that RPD reviews social media accounts as a part of the background checks for new hires.

*Chairwoman Trammell expressed her concern about the type of scrutiny police officers were experiencing. Chairwoman Trammell expressed further her concerns about the format of a meeting regarding questions and answers relative to a potential public safety matter at Dogwood Dell.*

Chief Smith responded to Chairwoman Trammell's comments.

### **Board Vacancies**

There were no board vacancies for review.

### **Staff Report**

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

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

[CD.2022.319](#) September 27, 2022 Public Safety Standing Committee Staff Report

**Attachments:** [20220927 Public Safety - Staff Report](#)

### **Adjournment**

*There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.*