



City of Richmond

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

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

12:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall
Virtual Meeting

This meeting was held through electronic communication means.

Call to Order

Chairwoman Reva Trammell called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m., and presided.

Electronic Meeting Announcement

Senior Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols, in accordance with the current ongoing declaration of a local emergency concerning the COVID-19 pandemic confirmed by Res. No. 2020-R025, adopted March 16, 2020, and as permitted by section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, announced the meeting would be held through electronic means. Senior Assistant City Clerk Nichols stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public on January 19, 2022, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, were provided to committee members. Mrs. Nichols indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

Roll Call

The Honorable Reva Trammell – Chair
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Vice Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Member (late arrival)

Others in Attendance

Jamie Isley, Boards and Commissions Administrator
Greg Lukanuski, Deputy City Attorney
Pamela Nichols, Senior Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Senior Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols provided citizen speaker guidelines.

Member Ellen Robertson joined the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Public Comment Period

The committee held a moment of silence for the three Baltimore firefighters who died in the line of duty.

Keith Andes, International Association of Fire Fighters Local #995 (I.A.F.F. Local #995) union president, discussed the need for city leaders to support full funding for public safety officers. Mr. Andes noted the amount of overtime hours public safety officers were forced to work due to staffing shortages, and he indicated that interest groups representing public safety officers have not been given an opportunity to work with the city regarding pay plan proposals.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell requested that a discussion item be placed on the next meeting's agenda to discuss concerns expressed by public safety officers relative to the current pay scale, mandatory overtime and staffing shortages. Chairwoman Trammell asked the committee for its recommendations as to the best approach to address concerns.

Member Ellen Robertson suggested that the committee hold a work session with public safety representatives during a committee meeting.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert expressed support for a work session.

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing prior to the committee meeting. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the committee and can be accessed below.

[CD.2022.053](#) 20220125 Public Safety - Written Public Comments

Attachments: [20220125 Public Safety - Public Comment](#)

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of Tuesday, November 23, 2021, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2022.009](#) November 23, 2021, Public Safety Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20211123 Public Safety Minutes - FINAL](#)

Presentation(s)**Richmond City Sheriff's Office Update**

Richmond City Sheriff Antionette V. Irving provided responses to questions previously submitted by the committee regarding sheriff deputy retention and recruitment, inmate education, staff training and violence prevention within the Justice Center. Sheriff Irving presented information on internal programs offered at the city's Justice Center and state grant funding for 2021.

Sheriff Irving reported that inmates are provided resources to address their needs in the categories of mental health and education. Sheriff Irving stated that the department currently has 130 vacancies and the fiscal impact to fill half of those vacancies would be approximately \$500,000.00.

The committee asked questions relative to factors contributing to the increase in employee turnover, trends or behaviors to address in order to reduce incarceration rates, and staffing levels.

Member Ellen Robertson requested follow-up information regarding census data for incarcerated city residents.

[CD.2022.029](#) 20220125 Richmond City Sheriff's Office

Attachments: [20220125 Public Safety - Richmond City Sheriffs Office Presentation](#)
[20220125 Public Safety - MEETING QUESTIONS](#)
[20220125 Public Safety - RCSO Inmate Corner 02-25-21](#)
[20220125 Public Safety - RCSO Inmate Corner 03-16-21](#)
[20220125 Public Safety - RCSO Inmate Corner 06-02-21](#)
[20220125 Public Safety - RCSO Inmate Corner 06-15-21](#)
[20220125 Public Safety - RCSO Inmate Corner 11-19-21](#)

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2021-371](#) To amend ch. 27, art. V, div. 1 of the City Code by adding therein a new section 27-132, concerning the use of photo speed monitoring devices in highway work zones and school crossings.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney, Ms. Lynch, Ms. Lambert, Ms. Jordan, Vice President Robertson, Ms. Trammell, President Newbille and Mr. Jones

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2021-371](#)

Victoria Pearson, Richmond Police Department (RPD) senior deputy department director, introduced ORD. 2021-371 and explained that the speed monitoring devices would be used for active work zones, and school crossing zones, two hours in the mornings and two hours in the evenings. Ms. Pearson stated that citations would be issued to vehicles driving in excess of 11 miles per hour of the posted speed limits for those zones.

The committee asked questions regarding the number of monitoring devices the city would acquire, determining factors in locations for the devices, and management of the program.

Captain Christopher Gleason, RPD Special Operations Division, reported that, initially, the program will begin with four (4) mobile monitoring devices; he stated that for school zones, devices could be installed based on requests by City Council or neighborhood complaints.

Captain Gleason further stated that state law restricts the use of the devices to active work and school crossing zones; however, some Council members have expressed interest in supporting legislation to request an amendment to the state code to allow placement of the devices in residential areas.

Mike Sawyer, Department of Public Works transportation engineer, responded to questions regarding the funding source for the program. Mr. Sawyer reported that the monitoring devices have proven to be effective and fines from the speed violations could provide the funding to sustain the program.

Member Ellen Robertson expressed concern about placing the monitoring devices in school zones based on neighborhood complaints.

Chief Gerald Smith stated that placement of the devices will be decided in a comprehensive manner to improve traffic safety citywide.

Member Ellen Robertson and Chairwoman Trammell asked to be added as co-patrons.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding pending legislation prior to the committee meeting. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the committee and can be accessed below.

[CD.2022.052](#) 20220125 Public Safety - ORD. 2022-371-Written Public Comments

Attachments: [20220125 Public Safety - Written Public Comments](#)

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2021-371 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items.

Board Vacancies

Jamie Isley, Boards and Commissions Administrator, 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.

Community Criminal Justice Board:
Elizabeth Johnson (reappointment)
Lisa Kelso
Judge Marilyn C. Goss
Dr. Blythe A. Bowman Balestrieri

[CD.2022.010](#) Board Vacancy Report - Public Safety Standing Committee

Attachments: [20220125 - Public Safety - Quarterly Vacancy Report](#)

Staff Report

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

[CD.2022.036](#) January 25, 2022 Public Safety Standing Committee Staff Report

Attachments: [20220125 Public Safety Staff Report](#)

Adjournment

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