



City of Richmond

Meeting Minutes

Public Safety Standing Committee

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

12:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – Virtual Meeting

Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Reva Trammell – Chair
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Vice Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Member
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Council Member
Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Richard Hill, Senior Assistant City Attorney
Jamie Isley, Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
Dominique Thaxton, Assistant City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chairwoman Reva Trammell called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., and presided.

Electronic Meeting Announcement

Assistant City Clerk Jamie Isley, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as most recently amended by Ordinance No. 2020-232, adopted December 14, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. Assistant City Clerk Isley stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on February 16, 2021, 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, February 23, 2021, were provided to committee members. Ms. Isley indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Assistant City Clerk Jamie Isley provided the citizen speaker guidelines.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of Tuesday, January 26, 2021, were not provided to members of the committee in advance of the meeting and will be reconsidered at the March 23, 2021, Public Safety Standing Committee meeting.

Board Vacancies

Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert stated that Dr. Andrew Ramsey requested his application for the Community Criminal Justice Board be withdrawn due to his recent appointment to the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA).

Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren informed the committee that Dr. Andrew Ramsey was appointed to the RBHA and Dr. Brian S. Maiden was recently recommended for appointment to the RBHA. Deputy City Clerk Warren also stated that Jewel Gatling is currently a member of the Maggie L. Walker Initiative Citizens Advisory Board and the Task Force on the Establishment of a Civilian Review Board.

Member Ellen Robertson suggested the committee continue consideration of the applicants for the Community Criminal Justice Board to provide time for a larger pool of applicants.

Member Ellen Robertson moved to continue consideration of the following appointment applications for the Community Criminal Justice Board to the April 27, 2021, Public Safety Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

<u>Board Name</u>	<u>Criteria for Appointment</u>	<u>Applicant Name</u>
Community Criminal Justice Board (15 members)	Citizen Representative (1 vacancy)	Dr. Andrew Ramsey 3 rd District Resident
		Dr. Brian S. Maiden 7 th District Resident
		Jewel Gatling 7 th District Resident

Member Ellen Robertson suggested Brandon Mencini and Kirk Roberts's applications to the Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA) be recommended for approval.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert reiterated that Dr. Andrew Ramsey did not wish to be considered due to his recent appointment to the RBHA.

Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward Brandon Mencini and Kirk Roberts's appointment applications for the Richmond Ambulance Authority to Council with the recommendation to approve, and to continue consideration of the following remaining appointment applications for the Richmond Ambulance Authority to the April 27, 2021, Public Safety Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

<u>Board Name</u>	<u>Criteria for Appointment</u>	<u>Applicant Name</u>
Richmond Ambulance Authority (11 members)	Reside or work in the city (3 vacancies)	Michael Dickinson 1 st District Resident
		Dr. Andrew Ramsey 3 rd District Resident
		Lovell Davis 4 th District Resident
		Heather Ward 4 th District Resident
		Nathan Joyce 6 th District Resident

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Presentation(s)

Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA) 2020 Annual Report

Chip Decker, Richmond Ambulance Authority chief executive officer, presented an overview of RAA initiatives, performance statistics, financial statements, and accomplishments for the past year. Mr. Decker discussed the Emergency Medical Technician basic program which provides entry-level job opportunities with prospects for advancement. He also discussed a non-punitive safety program that allows employees to report near-miss situations and errors to better identify potential safety hazards and take corrective action. Mr. Decker further informed the committee of a drone program in partnership with Virginia Commonwealth University to deliver naloxone to 9-1-1 bystanders at the scene of an opioid overdose incident.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert inquired about non-emergency calls for service received by RAA.

Mr. Decker informed the committee that non-emergency calls include hospital discharges, dialysis appointments and similar calls, which help to offset the cost of the emergency calls for service.

Member Ellen Robertson inquired about RAA incidents in which a non-transport determination is made. She also inquired about the cost of transport, insurance coverage, and patient payment plans for transport fees.

Mr. Decker explained that the following scenarios generally justify a non-transport determination: the patient is not found, the patient does not want or need transport, RAA responded to a traffic accident with no injuries, or RAA is standing by on a Richmond Fire Department incident. Mr. Decker explained that RAA transportation costs depend on the nature of the transport event and that there are several options available for patients who are unable to pay. Mr. Decker also provided an overview of the Richmond LifeSaver Membership Program offered by RAA to city residents, which provides funds to cover out-of-pocket fees and deductibles for insured participants who have received medically necessary transports.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell requested a presentation from Mr. Decker regarding the RAA Richmond LifeSaver Membership Program at the next Public Safety Standing Committee meeting.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Paper(s) for Consideration

There were no papers for consideration.

Discussion Item(s)

Update Regarding Recent Fire Incidents

Fire Chief Melvin Carter introduced Deputy Chief Elmond Taylor, Fire Captain Earl Dyer, and Captain Robin McCarter who provided an overview of structural fires and other Department of Fire and Emergency Services (RFD) incidents in 2021. Deputy Chief Taylor informed the committee about the difference between initial RFD call types and the final call type classification for a particular fire incident in the Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD). Deputy Chief Taylor further discussed Richmond fire investigations and two multi-alarm fires that occurred in 2021.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert asked whether the Dominion Place Apartment building is a non-smoking facility.

Fire Captain Dyer stated that the multi-alarm fire that occurred at Dominion Place Apartments was caused by an individual smoking on a mattress, and that he would follow up regarding the smoking regulations within the apartment building.

Member Ellen Robertson asked whether charges are filed against persons who are found to have started a fire due to inappropriate disposal of smoking materials. She also asked whether buildings are required by law to have insurance.

Deputy Chief Elmond Taylor stated that cases like the recent fire incident at Dominion Place Apartments are typically ruled an accident unless individuals were injured or killed as a result of the fire. Deputy Chief Taylor also discussed requirements regarding homeowners insurance.

Fire Chief Carter suggested the Public Safety Standing Committee consider receiving reports from the RFD every quarter at future committee meetings.

Vice Chair Lambert asked for a one-page informational document regarding fire safety to share with the public.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell discussed illegal fires occurring at night within the 8th Voter District, specifically at 2720 Haden Avenue.

Fire Chief Melvin Carter informed the committee that the RFD will follow up regarding the fires in the 8th Voter District, and that City Code § 13-199, and ORD. 2015-190 prohibit open burning within the city.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Staff Report

Steve Taylor, Council policy analyst, provided the committee with the February staff report.

Mr. Taylor reviewed presentation suggestions made at the previous committee meeting.

Member Ellen Robertson requested staff prepare the requested presentations and confer with Chairwoman Trammell to determine when the presentations should occur. Member Robertson also requested Mr. Taylor confer with the Task Force on the Establishment of a Civilian Review Board to determine when the task force could feasibly present to the committee.

Chairwoman Trammell requested Police Chief Gerald Smith provide an update regarding speeding city-wide at the March 23, 2021, Public Safety Standing Committee meeting.

A copy of the report provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.