



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes Public Safety Standing Committee

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

Committee Members

The Honorable Reva Trammell – Chair
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Vice Chair (early departure)
The Honorable Kristen Nye – Member

Others in Attendance

LaTanja Davenport, Council Budget Analyst
Greg Lukanuski, Deputy City Attorney
Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Rebecca Sullivan, Assistant City Clerk
Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Reva Trammell called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Assistant City Clerk Rebecca Sullivan 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

William Bullock expressed his desire for the city to help develop resources for the youth in the area.

Chair Reva Trammell requested the Sheriff's Office reach out to Mr. Bullock in order to coordinate his ability to conduct missionary work in the city jail.

Major Douglas Clevert, Sheriff's Department, stated he would arrange a meeting with Mr. Bullock regarding the issue.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert stated that she would also be reaching out to communicate with the Sheriff's Office.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of May 23, 2023 and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2023.182](#) May 23, 2023 Public Safety Meeting Minutes

Presentation(s)

Department of Animal Care and Control Update

Christie Peters, Department of Animal Care and Control Director, provided the committee with a presentation regarding the work of the Richmond Animal Care and Control (RCAA). Specifically, Director Peters outlined the success of local fundraising, and the challenges caused by the rise of animal abandonment in the city.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert stated her concern regarding the rise of animal abandonment in the city, and stated her desire to help solve the problem.

Director Peters stated her belief in the need for a larger facility available for long term animal shelter and veterinary services. Director Peters emphasized the challenge of rising evictions in the city, and its impact on rising animal abandonment.

Member Kristen Nye asked for details regarding the ideal RCAA facility, and the funding estimates necessary to develop the facility.

Robert Steidel, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) of Operations, reported the building used for the RACC facility was in need of renovation, and that the city was researching locations available for the development of a new facility. DCAO Steidel also reported that funding options for a new RACC facility were being determined.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.258](#) Department of Animal Care and Control Update

Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney Update

Colette McEachin, Commonwealth's Attorney, provided the committee with a presentation regarding the work conducted by the Commonwealth's Attorney Office. Ms. McEachin, on behalf of the Commonwealth's Attorney Office, requested funds to purchase a transcription software that could be used to quickly search police body camera footage, as well as, funds to provide a salary in order to hire another attorney for their office.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert asked to build a line of communication between precinct prosecutors and Council members. Vice Chair Lambert also requested copies of Commonwealth Attorney informational resources to distribute to city residents.

Member Kristen Nye requested information regarding the transcription software to be shared with Council members.

Chair Reva Trammell expressed her appreciation for the presentation, and suggested future collaboration with the Commonwealth's Attorney.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.263](#) Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney Presentation to the Public Safety Committee

Paper(s) for Consideration

There were no papers for consideration.

Discussion Item(s)

Review on Crime

Chief of Police Rick Edwards discussed the ongoing work of the Richmond Police Department (RPD). Specifically, Chief Edwards shared his concern regarding the rise in property crime in the city, such as shoplifting and motor vehicle theft.

Member Kristen Nye requested information regarding the ongoing work of the Richmond Community Mediators and gun violence in the city.

Chief Edwards provided information on the work of the Richmond Community Mediators and the impact it had on gun violence in the city.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances requested information regarding the ways in which the RPD were working with the community.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert left the meeting at 2:27 p.m.

Colette McEachin, Commonwealth's Attorney, shared information regarding firearm safety and criminal testimony.

Chair Reva Trammell stated her appreciation for the work of the RPD, and expressed her concern regarding speeding violations in the city.

Chief Edwards stated that hiring more officers would allow the RPD to address more crime in the city.

August Committee Meeting

The committee discussed the scheduling of the proposed August 2023 meeting and determined that it would be canceled.

Board Vacancies

Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

Member Kristen Nye moved to forward the following board appointment and reappointment applications to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved.

Community Criminal Justice Board:

Tracy Paner (reappointment)

Michon Moon (reappointment)

DJ Haskin

Judge Mansi Shah (reappointment)

Richmond Ambulance Authority:

Julia Hammond (reappointment)

Kirk Robert (reappointment)

Marilyn West (reappointment)

Mark Hickman

[CD.2023.252](#) July 25, 2023 - Public Safety Board Vacancy Report

Staff Report

A copy of material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.237](#) July 25, 2023 Public Safety Standing Committee Staff Report

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.