



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes Public Safety Standing Committee

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

Committee Members

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

Others in Attendance

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 1:05 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

Christopher May expressed his concern with Richmond Police response to emergency calls and crime in his neighborhood of Oak Grove.

Chair Reva Trammell expressed her concern for the issue and suggested collaborating with Mr. May and the Interim Police Chief in order to discuss solutions.

Member Kristen Nye shared her concern regarding police response availability.

Interim Chief of Police Rick Edwards discussed the issues facing the Richmond Police Department (RPD) that may have contributed to Mr. May's experience. Specifically, Interim Chief Edwards highlighted the geographical layout of current police precincts, RPD staffing practices, and population growth in the city.

Member Nye suggested further discussion of the issue at the upcoming Public Safety Committee Meeting in April 2023.

Discussion Item(s)

Speeding Mitigation

Interim Chief of Police Rick Edwards shared a presentation on the Richmond Police Department's (RPD) efforts to mitigate speeding and enforce traffic safety. Interim Chief Edwards stated that the RPD's actions aimed to specifically lower the amount of deadly traffic crashes in the city.

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

[CD.2023.115](#) March 28, 2023 Public Safety - RPD Roadway Safety

Member Kristen Nye asked what actions her constituents could take to help aid traffic reporting and safety. Member Nye also inquired as to how the RPD could effectively enforce traffic safety, especially the speeding issues within the city.

Interim Chief Edwards stated that more reporting allowed the RPD more time to prepare for successful enforcement. Interim Chief Edwards suggested that the RPD could switch tactics for traffic safety enforcement, such as seizing vehicles involved in speeding or reckless driving reports. Interim Chief Edwards also stated that in order to move forward with such actions, however, the RPD would need guidance from the Office of the City Attorney.

Chair Reva Trammell shared her concern that traffic safety was a growing issue in the city.

Member Nye inquired if it was possible to involve the Office of the City Attorney in collaboration efforts to help the RPD find alternative solutions to traffic safety enforcement and regulation.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of February 28, 2023 and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2023.084](#) February 28, 2023 Public Safety Meeting Minutes

Presentation(s)

Richmond Ambulance Authority 2022 Annual Report

Chip Decker, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA), presented the committee with the annual report regarding the RAA.

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

[CD.2023.057](#) Richmond Ambulance Authority 2022 Annual Report Presentation

Chair Reva Trammell shared her appreciation for the RAA.

CEO Decker also shared a general report for the month of February 2023, including the number of emergency responses and patients that were managed by the RAA.

Member Kristen Nye asked for information regarding the current staffing vacancies within the RAA.

CEO Decker shared that the RAA staff vacancy rate was remaining consistent, however, retention was a current staffing issue.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert arrived and was seated at 1:49 p.m.

Fire Chief Melvin D. Carter presented information regarding the Fire Department's staff vacancies and hiring practices. Specifically, Fire Chief Carter shared that many of the recent vacancies had been filled.

Member Kristen Nye requested a report on school fire safety to be available at the upcoming April 2023 Public Safety Standing Committee meeting.

Fire Chief Carter stated that a report would be available for the upcoming April 2023 meeting.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert shared her appreciation for the Fire Department and suggested the possibility of coordinating more outreach between first responders and local residents.

Paper(s) for Consideration

There were no papers for consideration.

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 application to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Richmond Ambulance Authority:
Andrew Walker

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

[CD.2023.109](#) March, 28, 2023 Board Vacancy Report

Staff Report

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

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

[CD.2023.150](#) March 2023 Public Safety Standing Committee Staff Report

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.