



## City of Richmond

### Meeting Minutes

#### Public Safety Standing Committee

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Tuesday, November 26, 2019

12:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

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#### Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Reva Trammell – Chair  
The Honorable Kim Gray – Vice Chair  
The Honorable Chris Hilbert – Committee Member (*early departure*)  
Richard Hill, Assistant City Attorney  
Jamie Isley, Assistant City Clerk  
Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst  
Dominique J. Thaxton, Assistant City Clerk  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

#### Call to Order

Chairwoman Reva Trammell called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m., and presided.

#### Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Assistant City Clerk Dominique J. Thaxton 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

**Beverly Readus** addressed the committee regarding a recent fatal motorcycle accident and cited excess gravel, low guardrails and lack of interstate ramp maintenance as contributing factors.

*It was the consensus of the committee to request an itemized list with pictures of roadway maintenance and guard rail issues from the commenters present, to be included in a letter to the Commissioner for the Virginia Department of Transportation because the Commonwealth of Virginia has jurisdiction over the interstate highway system.*

**Teddy Newsome** informed the committee of issues regarding grass and debris in the roadway on interstate ramps located at Maury Street and Bells Road. Mr. Newsome noted a PERI Systems product that can be added to existing guardrails to act as a safety wall and suggested signage to alert motorists of loose gravel.

**Kerri O'Brien, WRIC Channel 8 News anchor and investigative reporter**, provided statistics regarding guardrail fatalities and stated that X-LITE guardrail terminals are being phased out in other states on roads with speed limits exceeding 55 miles per hour.

**Yohance Whittaker, Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project (RTAP) member**, stated that the agreed-upon public forum regarding the Richmond Police Department (RPD) records management system remained unscheduled.

*Vice Chair Kim Gray expressed concern regarding the unscheduled RPD public meeting which was previously agreed to occur prior to the end of December 2019.*

*Police Chief William Smith disclosed that RTAP declined a meeting invitation from RPD and that RPD is working to schedule a public meeting.*

*Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lenora Reid stated that city administration will commit to holding a publically noticed meeting with opportunities for public input regarding the new RPD records management system prior to December 31, 2019.*

**William “Bill” Pantele, on behalf of Richmond Coalition of Police,** advocated for the career development program for public safety training and education and asked the committee to consider the reinstatement of the program that is currently frozen.

### **Approval of Minutes**

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of Tuesday, October 22, 2019, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

### **Papers for Consideration**

**Vice Chair Kim Gray moved to amend the agenda as follows:**

#### ORD. 2019-319

To reduce the speed limit on Libbie Avenue between Guthrie Avenue and the City's corporate boundary from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour.

**Patron:** Mr. Addison

**To be continued to the January 28, 2019, Public Safety Standing Committee meeting**

#### ORD. 2019-320

To reduce the speed limit on Patterson Avenue between Willow Lawn Drive and Pepper Avenue from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour.

**Patron:** Mr. Addison

**To be continued to the January 28, 2019, Public Safety Standing Committee meeting**

**The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

### **Board Vacancies**

Allison Miessler, boards and commissions administrator, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

**Vice Chair Kim Gray moved to forward the following reappointment to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:**

<b><u>Board Name</u></b>	<b><u>Criteria for Appointment</u></b>	<b><u>Applicant Name</u></b>
<b>Advisory Board for the Assessment of Towing Fees and the Storage of Vehicles</b> (7 members)	Towing and Recovery Operator*   (1 vacancy)	Charlie Woodson (reappointment)

\*Applicant must either work or reside in the city

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

**Presentation**

**Richmond Police Department (RPD) Homicide Report**

Police Chief William Smith presented the committee with a data analysis reflecting the city’s homicide and aggravated assault rates for 2019. The findings were analyzed to reflect methods of prevention, departmental needs for additional resources and addressing needs for at risk demographics.

*Member Chris Hilbert raised concerns regarding predictive policing and the public perception of the public housing communities. He inquired about the percentage of involvement from the Department of Social Services and local agencies as well as early intervention resources for individuals under the age of twenty-five.*

*Police Chief Smith stated that RPD partnerships with Richmond Behavioral Health Authority and local non-profit organizations help provide services that officers assigned to public housing communities are not equipped to manage. He also stated that past social media campaigns yielded limited success and that RPD plans to hire community members to interact with youth in person to proactively curtail violent crime.*

*Committee Member Hilbert departed at 1:15 p.m.*

*A copy of the presentation has been filed.*

**Discussion Item(s)**

There were no items for discussion.

**Staff Report**

Steven Taylor, Council policy analyst, provided the committee with the November staff report.

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

**Adjournment**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.