



City of Richmond

Meeting Minutes

Public Safety Standing Committee

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

12:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor

Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Reva Trammell – Chair
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Vice Chair
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

Absent

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Member

Call to Order

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

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Senior Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols 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

There were no public comment speakers.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of Tuesday, October 26, 2021, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

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 applications to Council with the recommendation to approve, and to continue consideration of the appointment applications for the Citizen Advisory Commission on Alternatives to Incarceration to the January 25, 2022 Public Safety Standing Committee meeting.

Board Name	Criteria for Appointment	Applicant Name
Community Criminal Justice Board (15 members)	At- Large City Resident (3 vacancies)	Terry Frye 4 th District Resident (reappointment) Elizabeth Johnson 6 th District Resident Dr. Michon Moon 1 st District Employment
	Public Defender or attorney experienced in criminal defense – Live or work in the city (1 vacancy)	Tracy Paner 6 th District Employment (reappointment)
	Community Services Board Administrator (1 vacancy)	Dr. John Lindstrom 6 th District Employment (reappointment)
	Designee/An Attorney of the Commonwealth – Live or work in the city (1 vacancy)	Crystal Foster Fitzgerald 6 th District Employment (reappointment)

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Presentation

Richmond Fire Department Quarterly Report

Fire Captain Steven Hall, Jr., presented an overview of the Richmond Fire Department’s quarterly totals for emergency medical service calls, fire or other responses and working incidents. Captain Hall reported that turnout times for fire and emergency services were slightly lower than times posted for the 2nd quarter; however, the total of fatal fires increased from the same time last year. Captain Hall further reported on the department’s attrition/hiring, overtime hours, promotions. He stated the department installed 92 smoke detectors and performed seven successful return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC). Captain Hall noted that the Fire Marshal’s Office (FMO) conducted 395 fire safety inspections and 284 of those inspections were classified as satisfactory.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Fire Captain Hall agreed to provide a map depicting the location of FMO safety inspections.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell expressed appreciation on behalf of residents for the Fire Department’s response for non-emergency services such as smoke-alarm installations. Chairwoman Trammell inquired about impacts the department may be facing with changes to the city’s population and the department’s staffing shortages.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert asked city administration to explore the use of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds for new fire apparatuses.

Paper(s) for Consideration

There were no papers for consideration.

Discussion Item

Public Safety on Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC) Buses

Julie Timm, GRTC Chief Executive Officer, acknowledged GRTC directors who were present: Anthony Carter, risk management and safety director, Sheryl Adams, chief of staff and interim chief operating officer, Joe Dillard, equitable innovation and legislative policy director and Carrie Rose Pace, communications and marketing director. Maurice Carter, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1220 president, was participating virtually. Ms. Timm reported that GRTC buses were safe, and in the history of the operation, there was only one incident that resulted in the death of a rider. Ms. Timm stated that GRTC operators total millions of trips annually, and bus travel remains the safest transportation network in the city. Ms. Timm also reported that GRTC has modified bus operators' ability to ban riders who violate rules, or other federal, state or local laws, and implemented deescalating training for all frontline staff.

In response to a question by Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert, Ms. Timm reported that GRTC's data does not indicate whether simple assaults to bus operators were mental health related.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell requested that individuals presenting before the committee provide copies of information being presented. Ms. Trammell reported that city residents had contacted her to express concerns regarding GRTC scheduling, longer wait times and route changes.

Ms. Timm clarified that despite an overall citywide increase in violence, GRTC buses have remained relatively safe. Ms. Timm stated that GRTC has been collaborating with the Richmond Police Department to improve safety on the buses, and GRTC remained incredibly sensitive to pressures bus operators and riders experience daily.

Vice Chair Lambert asked about video surveillance on GRTC buses and Ms. Timm advised that each bus was equipped with interior and exterior cameras.

The committee requested a follow-up presentation regarding public safety on GRTC buses at its January 25, 2022 meeting and asked Maurice Carter, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1220 president, to be present to respond to questions.

Staff Report

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

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert requested an update on the Public Safety Employee COVID-19 Hazard bonuses at the January 25, 2022 committee meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.