



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes Public Safety Standing Committee

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

Committee Members and other Councilmembers in Attendance

The Honorable Reva Trammell – Chair
The Honorable Sarah Abubaker – Member (electronic participation)
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Council President

Absent

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Vice Chair

Staff and Others in Attendance

Laura Drewry, City Attorney
Maria Garnett, Council Policy Analyst
Greg Lukanuski, Deputy City Attorney
Nahdiyah Muhammad, Assistant City Clerk
Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Steve 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 Public Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Nahdiyah Muhammad provided information on the appropriate way to evacuate the Council Chamber in an emergency along with public speaker guidelines.

Electronic Participation

Pursuant to Rule III(D)(4)(b) of Council's Rules of Procedure, Committee Member Sarah Abubaker made a request to participate in the meeting via Microsoft Teams from her home, due to a medical condition that prevented her physical attendance. The committee members present were required to adopt a motion to approve Member Abubaker's participation in the meeting by electronic communication means if it appeared to the committee that her request complied with Rule III(D) of Council's Rules of Procedure. A motion was solicited from those members physically assembled to approve Member Sarah Abubaker's participation in the meeting by electronic communication means.

President Cynthia Newbille moved to allow Member Sarah Abubaker to participate in the meeting by electronic communication means. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Newbille, Trammell. Noes None. Abubaker was awaiting approval to participate by electronic communication means.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of March 25, 2025, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2025.126](#) March 25, 2025 - Public Safety Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20250325 Public Safety Minutes - DRAFT](#)

Board Vacancies

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

[CD.2025.125](#) April 22, 2025 - Public Safety Board Vacancy Report

Attachments: [20250422 - Public Safety Board Vacancy Report](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

President Cynthia Newbille moved to forward the following board reappointment and appointment applications to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

Advisory Board for the Assessment of Towing Fees and the Storage of Vehicles:

Sydney Collier (reappointment)

Ronda Lawson (reappointment)

Community Criminal Justice Board:

Judge Mansi Shah (reappointment)

Scott Ward

Richmond Ambulance Authority:
Joseph Trapani (reappointment)

Public Comment Period

LaTonya Tucker addressed the committee regarding safety concerns in Hillside Court after recent events of alleged violations and gun violence. Ms. Tucker stated that she had reached out to Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) regarding her safety concerns.

Presentation(s)

Richmond Ambulance Authority Data Comparison

Chip Decker, Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA) Chief Executive Officer (CEO), presented the committee with information regarding RAA emergency dispatch data comparison.

[CD.2025.130](#) April 22, 2025 - RAA Data Comparison Presentation

Attachments: [20250422 RAA Data Comparison Presentation](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Member Sarah Abubaker asked why a previous committee request for a more extensive and collaborative breakdown of data comparison between RAA and the Department of Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response (DECPR) had not been provided to the committee.

CEO Decker stated RAA and DECPR have provided the requested information, and that the information needs to be calculated to conduct a proper side-by-side analysis.

Council President Cynthia Newbille asked if the combined data regarding the analysis that the committee had previously requested from RAA and DECPR had been provided to the committee.

CEO Decker informed the committee that DECPR did not plan to present their data to the committee based on the provided staff report.

Stephen Willoughby, Director of the Department of Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response (DECPR), stated DECPR had provided the committee with the requested data with the intention of conducting an informed discussion with the committee.

Chair Reva Trammell stated that the requested data was to be provided to the committee as a side-by-side comparison presentation.

Director Willoughby and CEO Decker continued to discuss RAA and DECPR data comparison with the committee.

The committee requested that RAA and DECPR return to the May committee meeting regarding the requested comparative data, and asked Council staff to coordinate the side-by-side analysis.

FY 25 2nd Quarter Fire Department Update

Jeffery Segal, Interim Fire Chief, Richmond Fire Department, presented the committee with information regarding FY 25 2nd quarter Fire Department update.

[CD.2025.132](#) April 22, 2025 - FY 25 2nd Quarter Fire Department Presentation

Attachments: [20250422 FY 25 2nd Quarter Fire Department Presentation](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Council President Cynthia Newbille asked whether the Richmond Fire Department (RFD) would still conduct the "day in the life" training to provide an inside look at RFD for new and returning Council members.

Interim Fire Chief Segal stated that RFD would still provide "day in the life" training to Council.

Chair Reva Trammell asked whether there was a different division within RFD that investigates arson crimes.

Interim Fire Chief Segal stated that RFD has a fire investigations unit that works closely with the Richmond Police Department (RPD), and he also stated eight of fourteen recent arson fires had resulted in arrests.

Member Sarah Abubaker asked whether RFD partners with other localities to assist with water rescues; she also asked what contributed to the increase in women fire recruits.

Interim Fire Chief Segal stated that RFD partners with other localities to assist with water rescues, and that Chesterfield County and Henrico County provided assistance during a Memorial Day 2022 incident on the James River. Interim Fire Chief Segal also stated that the increase in women fire recruits is due to the characteristics of RFD personnel.

Interim Fire Chief Segal continued to discuss the FY 25 2nd quarter Fire Department presentation with the committee.

Paper(s) for Consideration

There were no papers for consideration.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items.

Staff Report

Council staff provided the committee with the April Public Safety staff report.

[CD.2025.141](#) April 22, 2025 - Public Safety Staff Report

Attachments: [20250422 Public Safety Staff Report](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.