



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes Public Safety Standing Committee

Tuesday, November 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
The Honorable Kristen Nye – Member

Others in Attendance

LaTanja Davenport, Council Budget Analyst
Greg Lukanuski, Deputy City Attorney
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Reva Trammell called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

City Clerk Candice Reid 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

Vernon Knapp, Friends of Bandy Field Representative, addressed the committee and stated his concerns about unleashed dogs present in Bandy Field and other city parks. Mr. Knapp also stated that dogs were unpredictable and pedestrians could be negatively impacted by an unleashed dog at any time. Mr. Knapp requested that the city enforce leash requirements to improve park safety. Mr. Knapp provided the committee with documentation that detailed unleashed dog observations in Bandy Field.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.362](#) Public Comment Hand Out - Vernon Knapp

David Harless, Friends of Bandy Field President, addressed the committee and informed members about an injury that occurred to a Friends of Bandy Field volunteer, due to an unleashed dog. Mr. Harless also stated that the injured volunteer was scared to return to Bandy Field due to the incident. Mr. Harless requested that the city enforce the leash requirements for dogs.

Donte McCutchen addressed the committee and stated his concerns about an incident between Richmond Police Department (RPD) Officers and a resident of the city. Mr. McCutchen also stated that the individual was subjected to excessive police force during the incident.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert thanked Mr. McCutchen for his comments, and she stated that the incident he referenced was of great concern to the surrounding community. Vice Chair Lambert also stated that a public town hall would take place to provide an opportunity to address the police interaction that occurred in Gilpin Court.

Chair Reva Trammell stated her concerns about division amongst city residents.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of October 24, 2023 and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2023.337](#) October 24, 2023 Public Safety Meeting Minutes

Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2023-339](#) To amend City Code § 11-102, concerning unlawful dumping, for the purpose of including a prohibition against dumping yard waste on public and private property.

Patrons: Ms. Lynch

There were no comments or discussions and Member Kristen Nye moved continue ORD. 2023-339 to the February 27, 2024 Public Safety Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies.

Discussion Item(s)

Richmond Police Department's (RPD) ability to enforce noise ordinance and handle noise complaints

Police Chief Rick Edwards provided the committee with information regarding the difficulty of enforcing the city's noise ordinance. Chief Edwards stated that the city currently issues civil penalties for noise violations, but it was difficult to enforce and track fines.

Greg Lukanuski, Deputy City Attorney, stated that Virginia code does not address how the city can collect noise violation fines. Mr. Lukanuski also stated that the city needed to identify a mechanism to collect the issued fines.

Sheila White, Director of Finance, informed the committee that city administration had identified a mechanism, but additional work was necessary to finalize the process for the city to receive the fine payments. Director White stated she would begin work to finalize the processes with RPD.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert inquired if a change to the Charter of the City of Richmond was necessary to identify a mechanism.

Mr. Lukanuski stated a charter change was not required.

Chief Edwards provided additional information regarding how RPD addresses noise complaints about excessive noise from vehicles and houses. Chief Edwards stated that most offenders lower the noise after a discussion with a dispatched RPD Officer.

Member Kristen Nye requested that the noise ordinance enforcement discussion item be included on the January 23, 2024 Public Safety Standing Committee agenda to provide an opportunity for an update.

Updates on speed enforcement cameras in school zones

Police Chief Rick Edwards provided the committee with an update regarding the use of speed cameras in school zones located in the city. Chief Edwards stated that the cameras would only be operational during school hours. Chief Edwards also stated that only two school zones currently had operational cameras, but that remaining school zones would begin to have cameras installed.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert inquired if the cameras would be used by the city's Real Time Crime Center.

Chief Edwards stated the cameras would not be used by the Real Time Crime Center and that it was not permitted by Virginia code.

Staff Report

Council staff provided the committee with the November staff report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.359](#) November Public Safety Staff Report

Chair Reva Trammell stated that the December Public Safety Standing Committee meeting would be cancelled.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.