



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes - Final Public Safety Standing Committee

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

12:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall
Virtual Meeting

This meeting was held through electronic communication means.

Call to Order

Chairwoman Reva Trammell called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., and presided.

Electronic Meeting Announcement

Senior Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols, in accordance with the current ongoing declaration of a local emergency concerning the COVID-19 pandemic confirmed by Res. No. 2020-R025, adopted March 16, 2020, and as permitted by section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, announced the meeting would be held through electronic means. Senior Assistant City Clerk Nichols stated notice of the meeting was emailed to the public on February 16, 2022, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, were provided to committee members. Mrs. Nichols indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

Roll Call

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

Others in Attendance

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

Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Senior Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols provided 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, January 25, 2022, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2022.066](#) January 25, 2022 Public Safety Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20220125 Public Safety Minutes - Final](#)

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following resolution was considered:

1. [RES. 2022-R013](#) To declare opioid drug overdose deaths as a public health crisis in the city of Richmond and to support the implementation of a drug overdose death spike alert program by the City and other public safety agencies serving the Richmond area.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney, Mr. Jones

Attachments: [Res. No. 2022-R013](#)

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert asked to be added as a co-patron of the proposed legislation.

Stephen Willoughby, Department of Emergency Communications director, introduced RES. 2022-R013.

Julie Karr, Opioid Coordinator with Richmond and Henrico Health Districts, provided an overview of the Richmond Metropolitan Spike Alert program. Ms. Karr reported that programs for drug overdose death spike alerts were being implemented across the United States to inform and prepare members of communities to prevent and respond to drug overdose emergencies using naloxone, a medication that counteracts the effects of a drug overdose. Ms. Karr explained that individuals can obtain naloxone and training on administering the medication for free by contacting the local health departments and other local partners. Ms. Karr discussed how naloxone has been successfully administered in overdose cases.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert and Chairwoman Reva Trammell asked about availability of the medication through the city's first responders, and tracking of the distribution to individuals.

Ms. Karr explained that the distribution of the medication is tracked through a statewide pharmacy registry and the local health departments, and that individuals are allowed one box of naloxone per visit and each box has two doses of the medication. She stated that individuals are not required to provide proof of identification in order to receive the naloxone.

Vice Chair Lambert requested the list of local partners participating in the Virginia Department of Health's Comprehensive Harm Reduction Partner Program.

Chairwoman Trammell asked to be added as a co-patron, and requested an update, at the next committee meeting on the police department's efforts to reduce the flow of illegal drugs in the city.

Member Ellen Robertson joined the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Member Ellen Robertson asked to be added as a co-patron.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward RES. 2022-R013 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Member Ellen Robertson asked Council staff to provide an update on previously adopted legislation regarding opioids. Member Robertson stated she wanted to ensure that follow-ups, if any, were finalized.

Presentation(s)

Richmond Ambulance Authority 2021 Annual Report

Chip Decker, Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA) Chief Executive Officer, advised the committee that RAA will be the agency responsible for reporting drug overdose spikes as a part of the Richmond Metropolitan Spike Alert program. Mr. Decker provided an overview of the RAA 2021 Annual Report and stated that the national employee turnover rate was approximately 30%; however, the city's rate was about 21%. Mr. Decker reported on the Authority's safety and wellness initiatives, and news and event highlights.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert expressed interest in RAA's continued participation in a federally funded study examining the use of drones to deliver naloxone.

Mr. Decker announced that RAA was re-accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services, celebrated its 30th anniversary of service to the city in September 2021, and averaged an approximate 97.7% patient satisfaction rating for 2021. Mr. Decker reported that RAA is required to respond to non-emergency matters such as, hospital discharges, transport to nursing homes and dialysis treatment. He stated that non-emergency response calls have far exceeded the total number of medical transports since the start of the pandemic. Mr. Decker further reported that RAA offers options for city residents seeking financial assistance for emergency transportation.

In response to a question by Member Ellen Robertson, Mr. Decker stated that RAA is a self-operated public utility model ambulance service which gives the city the authority to regulate and oversee system performance, and to hold RAA accountable to meet or exceed performance requirements.

Member Ellen Robertson expressed interest in reviewing state and local codes governing performance requirements for RAA.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2022.067](#) 20220222 RAA Annual Report

Attachments: [20220222 Public Safety - RAA Annual Report Presentation](#)
[20220222 Public Safety - RAA Annual Report](#)

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies for review.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items.

Staff Report

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

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert requested updates on the status of the implementation of recommendations from the Task Force to Reimagine Public Safety and the gun violence prevention program, at the next committee meeting.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell requested a discussion at the next committee meeting, regarding a permanent location for the Richmond Police Memorial.

[CD.2022.080](#) Public Safety Staff Report

Attachments: [After Item - 20220222 Public Safety - February Staff Report](#)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.