



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes Public Safety Standing Committee

Tuesday, November 22, 2022

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

Committee Members

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

Absent

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Member

Others in Attendance

Greg Lukanuski, Deputy City Attorney
Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chairwoman Reva Trammell called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst, 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.

Vice Chairwoman Ann-Frances Lambert requested a moment of silence in order to recognize individuals in the city currently facing tragedy.

Public Comment Period

Cheryl Nici-O'Connell, Richmond United for Law Enforcement, shared testimonies from two separate citizens that shared concerns with the efficiency of Richmond's 911 public safety services. Ms. Nici-O'Connell also shared that multiple anonymous members from the Department of Emergency Communications have reached out in hopes to settle workplace issues. She raised a concern that the workplace issues are impacting the general safety of the city's people and emergency response employees. Ms. Nici-O'Connell offered possible solutions to solving the Department of Emergency Communications workplace issues including more training and more employee benefits.

[CD.2022.405](#) After Item - 20221122 Public Safety - Citizen Comment

Chairwoman Reva Trammell thanked Cheryl Nici-O'Connell for bringing the issue before the committee for discussion, and she suggested to carry the issue over to the next meeting in January 2023.

Jackie Crotts, Emergency Communications Deputy Director of Technology, requested Cheryl Nici-O'Connell share her information and questions with him in order to address the specific problems concerning the Department of Emergency Communications (DEC). Mr. Crotts commented on some of the workplace issues that he has noticed including DEC employee wages and staffing shortages.

Vice Chairwoman Ann-Frances Lambert thanked Cheryl Nici-O'Connell for the information she had brought before the committee.

Rick Edwards, Acting Chief of Police, shared a crime report that showed that both homicide rates and fatal drug overdose rates have fallen from the previous fiscal year. Chief Edwards suggested the proliferation of Narcan and tourniquet use has been helpful in saving lives. He also shared that the city is rehiring officers that had previously left to work in other police forces and thanked Council for the pay increases that led to their return. Chief Edwards raised a concern that there are over 100 vacancies within the Richmond Police Department.

Vice Chairwoman Lambert thanked Chief Edwards for his work and shared her appreciation for the police force's work in her district.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell asked Chief Edwards about pay raise possibilities for officers that have already returned to the city's police force before the new incentive pay raises.

Chief Edwards explained the new pay scale for sworn officers has been simplified to address the issues raised.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell thanked Chief Edwards for the police force's work in her district. Chairwoman Trammell suggested the use of translators for Spanish speaking residents in order to promote trust between the police force and residents.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of Tuesday, October 25, 2022, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2022.391](#) October 25, 2022 Public Safety Meeting Minutes

Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

Paper(s) for Consideration

1. [ORD. 2022-327](#) To amend City Code § 13-221, concerning inspection reports, for the purpose of requiring that such reports be submitted to the Fire Marshal through a web-based reporting system provided by a contractor of the Fire Code Official.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Vice Chairwoman Ann-Frances Lambert inquired about the fiscal impact of using the requested contractor.

Elmond Taylor, Deputy Fire Chief, stated that the costs would be covered by the 3rd party contractor and that the city would incur no costs.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell requested for an update on the Hickory Hill Community Center and fire training availability, and stated that she shared her district's enthusiasm for the program.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chairwoman Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward ORD. 2022-327 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved. Ayes 2, Lambert, Trammell. Noes 0.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items.

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies.

Staff Report

[CD.2022.392](#) November 22, 2022 Public Safety Standing Committee Staff Report

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.