



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Public Safety Standing Committee

Tuesday, June 28, 2022

12:00 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, Senior Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst

Call to Order

Chairwoman Reva Trammell called the meeting to order at 12:06 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.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of Tuesday, March 22, 2022, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2022.161](#) March 22, 2022 Public Safety Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20220322 Public Safety Minutes - Draft](#)

Paper for Consideration

[RES. 2022-R043](#) To adopt the City of Richmond's Emergency Operations Plan in accordance with the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Services and Disaster Law of 2000.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Res. No. 2022-R043](#)

Fire Chief Melvin Carter, along with Anthony Mclean, Fire and Emergency Services Deputy Director II, introduced RES. 2022-R043.

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-R043 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Board Vacancies

Senior Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols reviewed board vacancies and reappointment applications for consideration by the committee.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward the following reappointment applications to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Advisory Board for the Assessment of Towing Fees and the Storage of Vehicles:
Megan Amaya (reappointment)
Ronda Lawson (reappointment)

A copy of the material provided has been filed and can be accessed below.

[CD.2022.211](#) Board Vacancy Report - Public Safety Standing Committee

Attachments: [20220628 Public Safety Vacancy Report](#)

Discussion Item(s)

Mental Health Services for Emergency Personnel

Chip Decker, Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA) Chief Executive Officer, presented an overview of mental health resources for RAA employees. Mr. Decker reported that RAA employees can access mental health services through referrals or voluntarily.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert stated that she was impressed with mental health services provided by the city of Charlotte, North Carolina, for its employees, and that she would like the city to implement similar services for employees.

A copy of the material provided has been filed and can be accessed below.

[CD.2022.246](#) June 28, 2022 Public Safety - Richmond Ambulance Authority

Attachments: [20220628 Public Safety - Mental Health Resources - RAA](#)

Fire Chief Melvin Carter provided an overview of mental health services for employees of the city's fire department. Fire Chief Carter reported that the city provides its employees mental health services comparable to services provided by the city of Charlotte, North Carolina. Fire Chief Carter stated that he was happy to announce that city administration will be recognizing the city's first responders during a designated Public Safety Week.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert inquired about the city's plans to reimagine public safety, and she asked community organizations to contact her to discuss their recommendations to improve relationships between citizens and first responders.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell commented that she would like to schedule a future discussion on staffing, morale and other challenges the city's firefighters were facing on a daily basis. Chairwoman Trammell requested an update from the Richmond Sheriff's Department and Emergency Communications regarding mental health services for their employees.

Spencer Cochran, Richmond Police Department (RPD) Chief of Staff, provided an overview on services provided through the department's critical incident stress management (CISM) team and the Virginia Law Enforcement Assistance Program. Mr. Cochran reported that officers are routinely assessed following highly stressful and emotional duty calls.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell requested an update on RPD's vacancies to include the number of officers on leave for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), military, vacation and sick.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert asked Council staff to coordinate a presentation with representatives with the city of Charlotte, North Carolina, regarding mental health services the city provides for its employees.

Chairwoman Trammell reiterated her support for the reintroduction of a community policing.

Presentation(s)

Richmond Ambulance Authority Update

Chip Decker, Chief Executive Officer for the Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA), presented an update on RAA, which included points of clarification deriving from this year's FY 2023 budget discussions.

Mr. Decker stated that in terms of accountability, RAA provides monthly and quarterly performance reports to the RAA Board of Directors, and presents an annual report to the Public Safety Standing Committee.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert asked questions regarding auditing practices and competitive salaries for RAA employees.

[CD.2022.221](#) June 28, 2022 Public Safety - Richmond Ambulance Authority

Attachments: [20220628 Public Safety - Richmond Ambulance Authority Update](#)

Health Threats to Richmond Fire Personnel

Keith Andes, Richmond Firefighters Association IAFF Local 995 Union President, commented on health dangers, suicides and occupational cancers, which are plaguing firefighters. Mr. Andes announced that the Richmond Fire Department has partnered with the Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center in hopes of preventing deaths related to cancer.

Dr. Bernard Fuemmeler, VCU Department of Health Behavior and Policy Professor and the Gordon D. Ginder, M.D., Endowed Chair in cancer research, presented an overview of cancer-related lifestyle risk factors. Dr. Fuemmeler reported on the development of the Virginia Firefighters for Lifelong Health Registry (VA-FLH) website and mobile application, and he stated that data from the registry will be distributed and available for all interested parties.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell asked questions regarding cancer-related risk factors.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert expressed her support for the city to implement services similar to services provided by the city of Charlotte, North Carolina, for city employees.

[CD.2022.254](#) June 28, 2022 Public Safety - Richmond Fire Personnel

Attachments: [20220628 Public Safety - Massey VA FLH](#)

Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

Staff Report

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

A copy of the material provided has been filed and can be accessed below.

[CD.2022.251](#) June 28, 2022 Public Safety Standing Committee Staff Report

Attachments: [20220628 Public Safety - Staff Report](#)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:54 p.m.