



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes Public Safety Standing Committee

Tuesday, May 23, 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
Rebecca Sullivan, Assistant City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Reva Trammell called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Assistant City Clerk Rebecca Sullivan 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

Janice Coleman stated her concerns regarding possible drug trafficking in her neighborhood on Hanes Avenue. Ms. Coleman also stated she was also concerned that police enforcement had been unable to deter the trafficking, and that she was worried about the overall safety of her neighborhood.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert thanked Ms. Coleman for sharing information with the committee. Vice Chair Lambert also stated that she had spoken to the police about the issue, and she would like to find a solution to the problem. Vice Chair Lambert asked for Ms. Coleman's personal information to further the discussion.

Chair Reva Trammell stated her appreciation for Ms. Coleman's report on the issue, and offered to share Ms. Coleman's information with the interim police chief.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of April 25, 2023 and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2023.181](#) April 25, 2023 Public Safety Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

Paper(s) for Consideration

There were no papers for consideration.

Discussion Item(s)**Drug Crime**

Interim Police Chief Rick Edwards addressed the committee's concerns about drug trafficking on Hanes Avenue. Chief Edwards stated that the police were currently patrolling the area, and that the issue was in the progress of being resolved. Chief Edwards provided the committee with information concerning an upcoming joint effort between the Richmond Police Department (RPD) and Virginia State Police, called Operation Safe Summer, that planned to address major drug trafficking issues in the city and surrounding area. Chief Edwards also shared a year to date crime comparison report with the committee.

Chair Reva Trammell commented on the challenges of police enforcement and requested the RPD to focus on actions that would reduce drug trafficking in the city.

Chief Edwards stated that communication and input from local residents provided the most assistance to the RPD.

Member Kristen Nye asked for clarification on what areas were targeted for police enforcement and how residents could contact the RPD to report drug trafficking in the city.

Chief Edwards clarified how residents could file a complaint to their local precinct.

Emergency Calls and Dispatch

Chair Reva Trammell stated her concerns regarding the emergency dispatch process. Specifically, Chair Trammell expressed that residents were faced with confusing questions when calling the emergency 911 number, or were unable to receive a language translator.

Stephen Willoughby, Director of Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response (DECPR), clarified the structure protocol system that was used to answer emergency calls. Director Willoughby stated that the protocols were based on national standards, and were currently being adjusted to meet the city's local needs.

Chair Trammell stated she had received reports that the Richmond Police Department (RPD) was having trouble accessing dispatch information.

Director Willoughby suggested that the RPD work with the Department of Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response, to fix any protocol concerns or technological issues relating to the dispatch process.

Chair Trammell asked for information regarding translation services currently available for emergency dispatchers and callers.

Director Willoughby provided information on the city's emergency translation services and stated that the department was currently looking to hire more bilingual emergency dispatchers.

Chip Decker, Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA) CEO, provided the committee with a status report on the Richmond Ambulance Authority operations for the month of May.

Member Kristen Nye raised her concern regarding the impact of the new service charge introduced by the RAA on city residents.

CEO Decker explained the RAA's current need for a service charge and provided information on an insurance option available to city residents that would cover the fees of an ambulance call.

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies.

Staff Report

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.194](#) May 23, 2023 Public Safety Standing Committee Staff Report

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.