



City of Richmond

Meeting Minutes

Public Safety Standing Committee

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

12:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Reva Trammell – Chair
The Honorable Kim Gray – Vice Chair
The Honorable Chris Hilbert – Committee Member (*late arrival*)
The Honorable Andreas Addison – Council Member (*early departure*)
Richard Hill, Assistant City Attorney
Jamie Isley, Assistant City Clerk
Allison Miessler, Boards and Commissions Administrator
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 12:17 p.m., and presided.

Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Assistant City Clerk Jamie Isley 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

Steven Barrett, Southall Civic Association member, informed the committee of issues regarding street deterioration and school bus safety in the area of Southall Avenue and Gregory Avenue due to an influx of traffic from large trucks.

Regina Dixon, Southall Civic Association member, highlighted several issues regarding parking, littering and regular vehicle traffic near business establishments in the alleyway located between Southall Avenue and Broad Rock Boulevard.

Committee member Chris Hilbert arrived at 12:26 p.m.

Robert Steidel, Department of Public Utilities chief administrative officer, noted that several departments within city administration have been working to address Ms. Dixon and Mr. Barrett's concerns.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell requested a report from city administration regarding the issues outlined by Ms. Dixon.

Dana Sally-Allen expressed dissatisfaction with vehicles parking flush with the end of the block at East 18th Street and Stockton Street, which impeded emergency vehicle response to a fire at her residence. Ms. Sally-Allen also recounted an illness experienced following the consumption of local drinking water in her home.

Fire Chief Melvin Carter informed the committee that he would follow-up regarding Ms. Sally-Allen's case.

Vice Chair Kim Gray stated that "no parking" signage is needed to stymie the impediment of emergency vehicle response.

Mr. Steidel stated that he would follow up with Ms. Sally-Allen regarding the water quality at her residence.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of Tuesday, November 26, 2019, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

Board Vacancies

Allison Miessler, boards and commissions administrator, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

Vice Chair Kim Gray moved to forward the following appointments and reappointments to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

Board Name	Criteria for Appointment	Applicant Name
Capital Area Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) Policy Advisory Board (2 members)	* (2 vacancies)	Ashley Lockhart (2nd District Resident) (reappointment)
Citizen Advisory Commission on Alternatives to Incarceration (15 members)	At-Large Resident (2 vacancies)	Rachel Bradshaw (2nd District Resident) (reappointment)
Community Criminal Justice Board (15 members)	Attorney of the Commonwealth (1 vacancy)	Crystal Fitzgerald (6th District Employment)
	A Local Educator (1 vacancy)	Blythe Bowman Balestrieri (2nd District Employment) (reappointment)
	Citizen Representative (2 vacancies)	Kelly King Horne (4th District Employment) (reappointment)
	Judge of the Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court (1 vacancy)	Marilynn Goss (6 th District Employment) (reappointment)
Richmond Ambulance Authority (15 members)	* (2 vacancies)	Carlos Hopkins (6th District Employment)

*Applicants must either reside or work in the city

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

Papers for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2019-319

To reduce the speed limit on Libbie Avenue between Guthrie Avenue and the City's corporate boundary from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour.

Patron: Andreas Addison

Council member Andreas Addison introduced ORD. 2019-319.

Michael Sawyer, Department of Public Works (DPW) city transportation engineer, informed the committee that DPW does not support ORD. 2019-319. He also stated that a reduction in the speed limit would not deter drivers from speeding in the area.

Member Chris Hilbert inquired whether a penalty increase would deter speeding similar to speeding penalties enacted on Westwood Avenue.

Council member Addison stated that penalty increases would not deter speeding in the area.

Vice Chair Kim Gray made a motion to continue ORD. 2019-319 to a later date pending additional information.

Member Hilbert expressed support for ORD. 2019-319 and inquired whether the patron supported a continuance prior to seconding Vice Chair Gray's motion.

Council member Addison requested specifics regarding the additional information requested by the committee. He reiterated his concern for safety in the area referenced in ORD. 2019-319, and voiced his intent to be proactive regarding the city's Vision Zero program initiatives.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell expressed her commitment to safety and desire to be consistent with the data presented by DPW engineering. Chairwoman Trammell suggested radar enforcement and a penalty increase for speeding in the area outlined in ORD. 2019-319.

Chief William Smith explained the variability of traffic stops regarding the exact speed at which a vehicle is stopped. He stated that resolving speeding issues on streets such as those outlined in ORD. 2019-319 require extensive solutions as many streets city-wide experience a disconnect between the functional use of the roadway and land use design.

Member Hilbert requested the committee provide Council member Addison with an itemized list of additional information requested regarding ORD. 2019-319.

Vice Chair Kim Gray formally withdrew the motion to continue ORD. 2019-319.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Kim Gray moved to forward ORD. 2019-319 to the February 10, 2020, City Council meeting with no recommendation, which was seconded and approved:** Ayes 2, Gray, Trammell. Noes 1, Hilbert.

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2019-320

To reduce the speed limit on Patterson Avenue between Willow Lawn Drive and Pepper Avenue from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour.

Patron: Andreas Addison

Council member Andreas Addison introduced ORD. 2019-320, and informed the committee of issues regarding high traffic volume, speeding, street placement and sunlight on Patterson Avenue between Willow Lawn Drive and Pepper Avenue. He also stated that the issues in the aforementioned areas pose safety concerns for neighboring residents, schools and churches.

Michael Sawyer, Department of Public Works city transportation engineer, informed the committee that DPW does not support ORD. 2019-320.

Council member Addison voiced that due to the similarity of ORDS. 2019-319 and 2019-320, the committee could forward ORD. 2019-320 to Council with no recommendation.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Kim Gray moved to forward ORD. 2019-320 to the February 10, 2020, City Council meeting with no recommendation, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Council member Addison departed the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no items for discussion.

Staff Report

Steve Taylor, Council policy analyst, provided the committee with the January staff report.

A copy of the report provided has been filed.

Vice Chair Kim Gray asked for information regarding a fatal vehicular accident that occurred at the intersection of North Allison Street and West Broad Street that involved Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC) pulse station protectors.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell requested GRTC discuss bus and pulse station lanes at the next Public Safety Standing Committee meeting, due to reports of constituent issues deciphering lights and signage on Broad Street.

Member Chris Hilbert requested staff to submit a CART (Council Action Request Tracker) request on behalf of himself and Vice Chair Gray, for additional signage and lights at the intersection of Hermitage Road and West Laburnum Avenue in response to significant accidents in the area.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.