

Public Safety Committee Meeting Record

The Public Committee meetings are recorded. Agenda materials are available online at www.dallascityhall.com.
Recordings may be reviewed/copied by contacting the Public Safety Committee Coordinator at 214-671-5265.

Meeting Date: Monday, February 8, 2021

Convened: 1:01 P.M.

Adjourned: 4:21 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Jennifer Gates, Chair
Lee M. Kleinman, Vice Chair
Carolyn King Arnold
Adam Bazaldua
David Blewett
DMPT B. Adam McGough
MPT Adam Medrano
Cara Mendelsohn
Casey Thomas, II

Committee Members Absent:

N/A

Other Council Members Present:

N/A

AGENDA:

CALL TO ORDER (1:01 P.M.)

BRIEFINGS

A. Approval of the January 11, 2021 Minutes

Presenter(s): Jennifer Gates, Chair

Information Only: ☐

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

Committee Member Adam Bazaldua made a motion to approve the January 11, 2021 meeting minutes with the correction of the outcome vote for Briefing Item C Resolution Regarding Testing Cannabis Update.

Motion made by: Adam Bazaldua

Motion Seconded by: MPT Adam Medrano

Item passed unanimously: ☒

Item passed on a divided vote: ☐

Item failed unanimously: ☐

Item failed on a divided vote: ☐

B. Resolution Regarding Testing Cannabis Update

Presenter(s): Reuben Ramirez, Deputy Chief, Dallas Police Department; Eddie Garcia, Chief Police, Dallas Police Department

Information Only: ☒

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

Reuben Ramirez, Deputy Chief, Dallas Police Department provided a presentation overview on the resolution regarding testing marijuana; current marijuana laws; and January 2021 marijuana data. Chief Garcia provided the Committee with 2oz sample of marijuana divided into packets for individual sale. Chief Garcia requested 30 days to create a new police policy regarding low level marijuana arrests. Committee members supported Chief Garcia's request before moving to full Council. All questions and concerns were answered.

C. DFR Response to NTBS Report on Atmos Incident

Presenter(s): Dominique Artis, Fire Chief; Lauren Johnson, Deputy Chief; Eric Beal, Deputy Chief; Scott Pacot; Battalion Chief, Dallas Fire Rescue's Department

Information Only: ☒

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

Staff provided a presentation overview of the response to the NTSB Report concerning the Atmos incident that occurred on February 21, 22, and 23 2018. The report provided the background, investigation, NTBS findings and recommendations, and DFR's changes and enhancements. All questions and concerns were answered.

D. Violent Crime Reduction Plan Update

Presenter(s): Teena Schultz, Deputy Assistant Chief, Dallas Police Department

Information Only: ☒

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

Staff provided a presentation overview of the Dallas Police Department's Violent Crime Reduction Plan Update. Aggravated assaults and homicides continue to be the department's primary area of concern. DPD's Violent Crime Response team is making progress by focusing on individuals wanted for violent felony offenses and improving response on critical calls. Chief Garcia stated he will work with criminologist and will update the City Council on the Violent Crime Reduction Plan in April 2021. All questions and concerns from the Committee were answered.

E. Update on P25 Radio Project

Presenter(s): William Zielinski, Director, Information and Technology Services; William Snead, Assistant Director, Information and Technology Services

Information Only: ☒

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

Staff provided the Committee with a presentation overview of the P-25 Radio System upgrade approved in 2017. Committee Member Mendelsohn expressed concern with the locations of the radio towers sites in certain districts. Committee Members endorsed staff's proposal to advance ILAs to the City Council for partner agency agreements for the expansion of the P25 radio system. Staff will provide data at a later date. All questions and concerns were answered.

F. Public Safety Dashboards

Presenter(s): Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager, City Manager's Office

Information Only: ☒

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

Staff provided the Committee with the month ending of January 2021 Public Safety Dashboards in order to provide a comprehensive snapshot of performance measures, critical areas of concerns, and staffing levels. Committee Member Blewett requested a briefing on overtime to reevaluate the resources. Committee Member Bazaldua agreed with the briefing request on overtime to compare this fiscal year to last fiscal year. Committee Member Arnold expressed that she is in favor of documenting overtime, however, supports and understands the importance of police resources and keeping the city safe. In addition, for the briefing request she would like to request the cost of a freedom of speech protest. All questions were answered.

G. Overview of Misdemeanor Offenses

Presenter(s): Tonya McClary, Director and Police Monitor, Office of Community Police Oversight

Information Only: ☒

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

Due to time constraints, Chairwoman Gates requested that this briefing be presented in a short introduction and be provided a more thorough presentation at a later date. Tonya McClary, Director and Police Monitor provided an introduction overview and analysis of misdemeanors offenses. All questions and concerns were answered.

BRIEFING BY MEMORANDUM

H. Violence Interrupter Program Update

Presenter(s): Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager, City Manager's Office

Information Only: ☒

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

The briefing memorandum referenced on an update on the status of the violence intervention project as approved in the FY 20-21 Budget. All questions and concerns were answered.

I. Status of Rape Kit Testing

Presenter(s): Lonzo Anderson, Assistant Chief, Dallas Police Department

Information Only: ☒

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

The briefing memorandum referenced on the status of rape kit testing and the progress toward reducing a backlog of kits that have already been submitted to the lab for testing. All questions and concerns were answered.

ADJOURN (4:21 P.M.)

APPROVED BY:

Jennifer Gates, Chair
Public Safety Committee

ATTESTED BY:

Karen Gonzalez, Coordinator
Public Safety Committee