

Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, March 25, 2019

Convened: 11:05 A.M.

Adjourned: 12:33 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Council Member B. Adam McGough, Chair
Council Member Philip T. Kingston, Vice Chair
Council Member Jennifer S. Gates
Mayor Pro Tem Casey Thomas
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Adam Medrano
Council Member Sandy Greyson
Council Member Kevin Felder
Council Member Carolyn King Arnold

Committee Members Absent:

Other Council Members Present:

AGENDA:

Call to Order

1. February 25, 2019 PSCJ Committee Meeting Minutes

Presenter(s): Council Member B. Adam McGough, Chair

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

A motion was made to approve the February 25, 2019 meeting minutes.

Motion made by: CM Kingston

Item passed unanimously:

Item failed unanimously:

Motion Seconded by: CM Felder

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed on a divided vote:

2. Public Safety Dashboards

Presenter(s): Assistant City Manager Jon Fortune, Executive Assistant Chief David Pughes, Dallas Police Department

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): On Monday, March 25, Executive Assistant Chief David Pughes presented the Dallas Police Department February 2019 Dashboard. Chief Pughes highlighted sworn staffing, hiring numbers, and dispatched calls and response times. May 1, 2019 will be the first month staff will be able to compare reported crimes from last year to this year since switching to the NIBRS reporting system. No questions/comments were made regarding the Dallas Fire-Rescue or Court and Detention Services Dashboards.

Motion made by:

Item passed unanimously:

Item failed unanimously:

Motion Seconded by:

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed on a divided vote:

3. End Panhandling Now Update

Presenter(s): Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager, Jessica Galleshaw, Director Office of Community Care, Executive Assistant Chief David Pughes, Dallas Police Department

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): On March 25, 2019 staff was briefed on the “End Panhandling Now” Campaign Update, an initiative that includes a public education campaign, community services programming, and enforcement in order to reduce the occurrences of panhandling. Committee members expressed concerns on the effectiveness of the program as they have not seen a decrease in panhandling or any paid social and online advertising advising residents against panhandling. Councilmember Greyson is in support of a press conference to spread awareness to residents. The committee would like staff to develop a different approach and to come back to committee with a revised briefing. Staff will be providing a timeline on allocation of these funds through the budget process. Several committee members suggest a possible reallocation for the funds to address human service needs.

Motion made by:
Item passed unanimously:
Item failed unanimously:

Motion Seconded by:
Item passed on a divided vote:
Item failed on a divided vote:

4. Text to 9-1-1

Presenter(s): Major Israel Herrera, DPD, Deputy Chief George Gamez, DFR

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Text to 9-1-1 is a new service enhancement that will provide citizens an alternative method to contact 9-1-1 when calling is not possible. Wireless customers will be able to send a text to 9-1-1 with their police or fire emergencies. Staff stressed that calling 9-1-1 is always the fastest and preferred method as there are limitations when texting. A public announcement will be made to introduce this program. The committee raised questions on what languages are available other than English. At this time, the program will roll out with English first.

5. Dallas Fire-Rescue Department’s New Ambulance Location

Presenter(s): Chief Dominique Artis, Dallas Fire-Rescue

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Chief Dominique Artis explained that call volume, work load on medics, as well as stations equipment capability were reasons as to why Station 18 was selected in receiving a new ambulance. Council will continue to support allotting funds to DFR so that other stations around the City can receive ambulances.

6. Survivors Benefits

Presenter(s): Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): The Dallas Fire Fighters Association recently expressed some concerns regarding the City’s application of Health Insurance benefits when there has been a death of a uniformed employee not in the line of duty. A memo was provided to the committee about the ongoing conversation around survivor benefits. Council asked that an analysis be completed and brought back to the committee.

7. Upcoming Agenda Item

Presenter(s): Council Member B. Adam McGough, Chair

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

A motion was made to approve Agenda Item #43 forward to full council.

Motion made by: CM Greyson
Item passed unanimously:
Item failed unanimously:

Motion Seconded by: DMPT Medrano
Item passed on a divided vote:
Item failed on a divided vote:

8. Community Prosecution Update

Presenter(s): Chris Caso, Interim City Attorney
Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Due to time, this item was deferred to the April 8, 2019 Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee.

Adjourned: 12:33pm

APPROVED BY:

ATTEST:

B. Adam McGough, Chair
Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee

Victoria Cruz, Coordinator
Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee

