

## **Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority**

### **Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC)**

**Friday, April 28, 2023**

**11:30am**

**Virtual Presentation**

**CapMetro Employees:** Jeremy Benoit, Peter Breton, Darryl Jamail, Nina Loehr, Brian Robinson, Gardner Tabon, Yvonne Wilson.

**Committee Members:** Brent Payne, Stephen Foster, Kathryn Kalinowski, Adam Powell, Monica Sanchez, Lauren Taylor, Leslie York.

**Meeting called to order 11:33 AM**

### **Welcome / Introductions / Call to Order**

*Chair Powell*

**Approval of the minutes** - Motion to approve by Kathryn Kalinowski / 2nd Adam Powell - passes unanimously.

### **Public Safety Ambassadors – Hiring and General Program Update**

*Brian Robinson, Public Safety Supervisor*

**Brian Robinson** overviews the public safety ambassador program, including hiring updates, data collected about their work, and the scope of their duties.

**Adam Powell** asks what the threshold is for Ambassadors to refer community members to the Community intervention Specialist team. **Brian Robinson** says referrals usually occur when there are multiple calls that involve a specific community member, and that Ambassadors collaborate with Temporary Police Officers (TPOs).

**Stephen Foster** asks what "check area" call is, and **Brian Robinson** explains that it's a routine check of a bus stop or other CapMetro property.

**Leslie York** asks about the process of hiring supervisors and whether CapMetro promotes Ambassadors to that position internally, and **Brian Robinson** says the position is open internally and externally, so they may promote an Ambassador or may hire from outside the agency.

### **Transit Police Update**

*Jeremy Benoit, Captain*

**Jeremy Benoit** overviews new developments for the Transit Police Department formation, including facilities projects, policies and procedures discussions, and future hiring.

**Adam Powell** asks what the process is for choosing a vendor for body cameras, and Jeremy Benoit explains that technical and functional considerations of the product are the major factors for choosing a vendor.

**Gardner Tabon** asks if there's reciprocity regarding hiring officers or other leadership positions at the department, and **Jeremy Benoit** says that yes, there is a TCOLE-certified online course that is about 120 hours of training along with a test that allows a person to only have to go through an onboarding & FTO program at a specific department.

**Brent Payne** asks if part of future officers' onboarding will include training on CapMetro's routes and services. **Jeremy Benoit** explains that there will be a 2-to-4-week onboarding training, where officers will be in plainclothes, will ride on the services, will talk with operators, and will work with Public Safety Ambassadors.

**Monica Sanchez** asks what de-escalation and other trainings officers will be required to take, and **Jeremy Benoit** confirms that officers will be required to take de-escalation training.

**Leslie York** asks who will be conducting the background checks for applicants, and **Jeremy Benoit** says that the People & Culture department will do some of the background check, and the department will do the rest, but anyone in the department doing that will be trained and TCOLE certified.

**Leslie York** says CapMetro should do deep dives on incoming officers to prevent officers with negative and hurtful behaviors to join. **Jeremy Benoit** says they're planning on that and more.

**Stephen Foster** asks about what the transition would look like between using APD officers to support and standing up the transit police department. **Jeremy Benoit** says CapMetro will still use APD at the start and will keep Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for Leander, Cedar Park, etc. to make sure that there is a good response time for incidents.

**Stephen Foster** asks if APD (or other) officers will wear CapMetro uniforms, and **Jeremy Benoit** says no.

**Stephen Foster** asks about CapMetro's current ability to respond to incidents considering APD's staffing issues, and **Jeremy Benoit** says that there's limited ability for them to respond to calls. **Darryl Jamail** adds that the Public Safety Ambassadors are really stepping up to help take those calls, and **Gardner Tabon** adds that APD was lacking 200 officers on patrol a month or so ago.

**Stephen Foster** asks if CapMetro is having Texas DPS officers respond to calls, and **Jeremy Benoit** says no.

### **Transit Police Messaging Research**

*Yvonne Wilson, Account Executive (Marketing & Communications)*

**Yvonne Wilson** overviews the transit police messaging research plan, as well as planned internal and external focus groups.

**Leslie York** asks that, after the finalization of the messaging, can CapMetro provide talking points to the committee, and **Yvonne Wilson** says yes.

### **Transit Police Support Meetings**

*Nina Loehr, Program Manager, Executive Staff*

*Jeremy Benoit, Captain*

**Jeremy Benoit** overviews the transit police support meetings, including what will be discussed in the meetings, how feedback will be collected, and how CapMetro will collect interest in what policies the committee members would like to give feedback on.

**Nina Loehr** explains how CapMetro Staff will organize feedback and follow up with committee members.

### **Public Safety Advisory Committee Recruitment Update**

*Peter Breton, Community Engagement Coordinator*

**Peter Breton** gives an update on the committee recruitment campaign and includes information about the current number of applications and expected next steps.

### **June Meeting Updates**

*Peter Breton, Community Engagement Coordinator*

**Peter Breton** explains that the June meeting will start off with elections for the Chair and Vice Chair of the committee, and that the meeting is currently scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend.

***Motion to reschedule the June meeting for Friday, June 23, 2023 from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM; Stephen Foster / 2nd Adam Powell – passes unanimously.***

***Meeting adjourned at 12:34 PM***