

Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC)

Friday, February 24, 2023

11:30 AM

Virtual Presentation

Microsoft Teams Meeting

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CapMetro Employees: Jeremy Benoit, Peter Breton, Wanda Dunham, Darryl Jamail, Nina Loehr, Edna Parra, Eric Robins, Gardner Tabon, Dottie Watkins, Yvonne Wilson, Holly Winge.

Committee Members: Stephen Foster, Kathryn Kalinowski, Adam Powell, Christian Shel mire, Monica Sanchez, Lauren Taylor, Leslie York

Meeting called to order at 11:41 AM

Welcome / Introductions / Call to Order

Chair Powell

Welcome & Thanks

Dottie Watkins, President & CEO

Dottie Watkins thanks the members of the committee for their commitment and leadership, and expresses her excitement to work through CapMetro's new approach to public safety.

Committee Norms and Reminders

Chair Powell

Vice-Chair Foster

Adam Powell and **Stephen Foster** overview committee norms, draft charter amendments, and attendance policies.

Monica Sanchez asks if PSAC will vote on the amendments. **Edna Parra** says that staff is looking for feedback, but eventually the CapMetro board will be voting on the amendments. Committee members and CapMetro Staff discuss edits to the draft charter amendments.

Public Safety Department Update

Eric Robins; Chief Administrator

Eric Robins overviews goals for the public safety department, including hiring of key staff for the transit police department, dispatch relocation, and action items going forward.

Hiring Update and Introduction to Public Safety Captain

Eric Robins, Chief Administrator

Jeremy Benoit, Captain

Eric Robins overviews hiring efforts for key positions and introduces **Jeremy Benoit**.

Jeremy Benoit expresses his excitement to work with CapMetro and PSAC.

Wanda Dunham further explains the hiring efforts.

Monica Sanchez asks how CapMetro will determine the adequate number of officers. **Eric Robins** explains that annual workload assessments are done based off metrics such as number of incidents, assaults, arrests, and other criminal activity factors, which then informs the need for possible additional staffing.

Gardner Tabon adds that population growth also factors into staffing considerations, and that Public Safety Ambassadors and Community Intervention Specialists are still a core focus of the Public Safety Program.

Adam Powell references state legislation around law enforcement funding, and **CapMetro Staff** explain that the legislation does not apply, as the legislation was aimed at municipalities.

Policy Advisory Process

Eric Robins, Chief Administrator

Jeremy Benoit, Captain

Chair Powell

CapMetro Staff and **Adam Powell** overview upcoming efforts to review policies.

Community Intervention Program Report

Holly Winge, Community Intervention Specialist II

Holly Winge overviews the results from the first year of the Community Intervention Specialist program, including key performance indicators, success stories, and partnerships and initiatives.

Monica Sanchez asks how large the CIS team is, and **Holly Winge** explains that for the first year, it was just two people, and a third just joined.

Monica Sanchez asks how staffing levels are measured for the program, and **Holly Winge** explains that the structure of the work requires the addition of new Specialists to be a very deliberate and measured task.

Monica Sanchez asks if Community Intervention Specialists, Public Safety Ambassadors, and Transit Police are under the same budget. **Gardner Tabon** explains that the Public Safety Ambassador and Community Intervention Specialist budgets are separate from the Transit Police budget.

Monica Sanchez asks how CapMetro is planning to staff the call center or dispatch. **Darryl Jamail** explains that 911 dispatch will be operated by the City of Austin, and that a 24/7 Public Safety dispatch has been staffed since August 2021. Additionally, CapMetro has hired 4 new dispatchers in preparation for the upcoming Transit Police department.

Approval of the minutes - Motion to approve by Adam Powell / 2nd Stephen Foster - passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:03 PM