

**Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC)
Wednesday, June 29th, 2022
11:00 AM**

Meeting called to order at 11:02 AM

CapMetro Employees: Peter Breton, Darryl Jamail, Edna Parra, Brian Robinson, Carlos Silva, Gardner Tabon, Dottie Watkins, Holly Winge.

Committee Members: Stephen Foster, Kathryn Kalinowski, Adam Powell, Christian Shelmire, Meme Styles, Lauren Taylor.

Call to Order

Chair Adam Powell

CapMetro Update & Moving Forward

Dottie Watkins, Interim CEO

Dottie Watkins expresses her thanks to the members of the committee for the work that they are doing and reaffirms her support for a compassionate and effective public safety program.

Meme Styles asks how to effectively communicate with and support CapMetro as a committee. **Dottie Watkins** explains that because the advisory committees are a function of community input, the most valuable service that the committee can provide is to be engaged when CapMetro staff present updates, as well as being thoughtful and expressive about how changes to CapMetro services may affect their communities.

Meeting Schedule and Cadence

Adam Powell; PSAC Chair

The committee discusses meeting cadence and settles on meeting on the last Friday of every other month from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

Public Safety Ambassadors

Brian Robinson, Public Safety

There are currently 17 Public Safety Ambassadors, of which 9 are new. Ambassadors are currently undergoing training and will be helping with the 4th of July route changes to help direct traffic. Some notable instances that have been handled include an abandoned backpack containing a gun noticed by an Ambassador, and a rider who had a heart attack on the bus (and is thankfully okay). There is also a new CapMetro Public Safety Ambassadors video.

Adam Powell asks how the overall recruitment process is going. **Brian Robinson** responds that the positions available are attractive, and that there have been over 90 applicants for the Public Safety Ambassador position thus far.

Meme Styles asks how exactly the Public Safety Ambassadors are being trained in recognizing, preventing, and stopping human trafficking. **Brian Robinson** explains that CapMetro collaborates with the Department of Homeland Security, and they are currently running the training.

Adam Powell asks how Public Safety Officers track contacts or incidents, and **Brian Robinson** describes the smartphone application that is used to do so.

Public Safety Program Update and Budget

Commented [NG1]: containing a gun? can't end the phrase with "of"

Commented [BP2R1]: ! thanks

Gardner Tabon, EVP & Chief Safety Officer

CapMetro has hired a new Chief Administrator – Mr. Eric Robins – who has over 30 years of law enforcement experience, is TCOLE certified, and is the former Sugar Land, TX chief of police. The FY '23 budget includes the funding necessary to support procurement and certification activities in anticipation of a late 2023/early 2024 TCOLE certification.

Stephen Foster asks if CapMetro expects to hire detectives and/or hire some staff that may specialize on specific issues such as human trafficking. **Gardner Tabon** explains that there are currently a few part-time detectives that work on behalf of CapMetro and that it is expected that there will be detectives working for the department in the future. There is no plan to hire specialized staff yet, but it is expected that the CapMetro Transit Police will have agreements with local police departments to help with coverage and specializations.

Stephen Foster asks to what level the local agreements would require transit police officers to step in on incidents. **Gardner Tabon** and **Darryl Jamail** explained that most likely, only major incidents or immediate crimes would elicit a response from transit police, and that the policies surrounding an officer's response to an incident will be tight.

Kathryn Kalinowski asks if any qualities or actions made Mr. Eric Robins stand out as a candidate. **Gardner Tabon** and **Darryl Jamail** shared that during Mr. Robins' time as Chief of Police in Sugar Land, he handled incidents of inappropriate behavior by officers well, and that his department was positively described as "hypersensitive" to community input.

Community Intervention Specialists Update and Ongoing Projects

Holly Winge, Community Intervention Specialist

Darryl Jamail, Sr. Director of Public Safety & Emergency Management

Community Intervention Specialists have now become coordinated assessors through ECHO and have gotten involved with Community First Village to help direct unhoused people towards obtaining housing. Like Public Safety Ambassadors, Community Intervention Specialists track their engagements. Community Intervention Specialists have had over 450 engagements, with 145 referrals and 42 coordinated assessments. They have collaborated with multiple agencies and nonprofits across the metropolitan area and are also working to train the Public Safety Ambassadors – and eventually all CapMetro employees – in mental health first aid.

Adam Powell asks how the work of Community Intervention Specialists overlaps with other agencies or nonprofits, and **Holly Winge** explains that there is some duplicated work, but that it varies and not all contacts made by Community Intervention Specialists overlap with other agencies.

Public Safety Program – Meeting Committee Members & Community

Committee Discussion

The committee and staff discuss what work can be done to connect the committee to the greater community, as well as the nonprofits within the space.

Approval of the minutes – Motion to approve by Stephen Foster. Passed with unanimous consent.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 PM.