

Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee Meeting Record

Meeting Date: Monday, November 13, 2017

Convened: 11:02 A.M.

Adjourned: 12:32 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 Dwaine R. Caraway
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Adam Medrano
Council Member Sandy Greyson
Council Member Kevin Felder

Committee Members Absent:

Other Council Members Present:

AGENDA:

Call to Order

1. Approval of Minutes from the October 23, 2017 PSCJ Committee Meeting

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

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

A motion was made to approve the October 23, 2017 minutes.

Motion made by: MPT Caraway

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 Dashboard

Presenter(s): ACM Jon Fortune, CMO

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

Staff provided the Committee with Public Safety Dashboards in order to provide a comprehensive snapshot of performance measures, critical areas of concerns, and staffing levels each month. MPT Caraway would like staff to schedule a meeting with him and include the appropriate representative from departments to find a way to educate the convenience store corporate owners on the required signs they are to have visible and educate them on our sign and convenience store ordinances and the CTA Program.

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. Give Right – Dallas

Presenter(s): Interim Director Cheritta Johnson, OCA

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

This briefing provided the committee with a draft overview of the proposed Public Awareness Campaign along with the marketing and enforcement strategies. MPT Caraway stated that the service requests received don't reflect the actual number of panhandlers in a district/area. Would also like to have this campaign spread out to the regional cities. Another option could be to have a "no standing" signs for areas just like the "no parking" signs. Vice Chair Kingston also disagrees with the high-volume call areas presented due to private land owners paying for extra security in downtown, Downtown Safety Patrol, in which they responded to 4,500 calls last year. AC Stokes stated that each of the seven-patrol division will identify their top three areas.

CM Greyson feels the campaign presented is too soft will not be that effective. She would like to see different graphics used on promoting not to give, similar to the no smoking sign and stronger photos. PIO presented these as concepts but can change the graphics, photos, and language per the committee's requests. CM Felder wants to see about possibly adding 311, 911 or contact phone number. Would like to see a photo of a person standing up panhandling not sitting as it was presented. The high impact areas in his district are Buckner Terrace, Buckner/I30, South Dallas, MLK/I45, MLK/Harwood. Would like staff to look into making this a multi-jurisdiction approach and to figure in transportation issues. DMPT Medrano would like to see concentration in the CBD, Farmers Market, Deep Ellum areas. In regards to the PSA, he would like to see it revised to become more powerful and to include the reasons on not to give. He also would like to see about getting Chief Hall and/or Chief Coatney to do the PSA.

The Giving Meters would be placed in the high impact areas to determine their effectiveness. At a point in time their use will be analyzed to determine if the City will continue in this program or remove. DMPT Medrano reference the "Real Change Movement" in Los Angeles County where parking meters were installed for giving but it caused more problems because the panhandlers were now hanging out by the meters. There wasn't a lot of revenue from the meters and would like staff to rethink the "Giving Meter" program. CM Gates is afraid the message will not reach all areas and maybe engaging in another level of marketing expertise will be able to achieve this and would like to see some metrics in order to determine if we are headed in the right direction.

Chair McGough asked if there were other enforcement options and DPD responded to now just issue v-citations to get to the community court instead of tickets in which they can't pay. Diane Gibson in Community Courts will roll-out a plan on the city-wide community court structure to determine which court they will need to appear in January 1, 2018. Chair McGough would like that to be brought back to the Committee. Have we considered an ordinance prohibiting giving to panhandlers? Also, staff will come back to the Committee with information/research on a proposed mental health clinic in order to provide another avenue for officers.

The Committee feels that this campaign is needed and is supportive of the efforts but what was presented isn't strong enough, the selection of the high-impact areas needs to be reviewed again, and the execution should be looked at again. The campaign will not roll-out until it's brought back to the Committee with the direction that was provided.

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. Recap of Shelter Operations

Presenter(s): Assistant EMC Kevin Oden, OEM

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

This briefing provided the committee with a view of the Hurricane Harvey logistics and operations of the shelters, projected costs, and provided lessons learned. Staff also recognized all the strategic partnerships and service providers who were involved in this effort.

Motion made by:

Item passed unanimously:

Item failed unanimously:

Motion Seconded by:

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed on a divided vote:

5. Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee Action Matrix

Presenter(s): ACM Jon Fortune, CMO

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

Staff provided the committee with responses to the requests/questions asked during previous committee meetings along with an updated action matrix.

Motion made by:

Item passed unanimously:

Item failed unanimously:

Motion Seconded by:

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed on a divided vote:

APPROVED BY:

ATTEST:

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

Crystal Lee, Coordinator
Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee