

# Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee Meeting Record

**Meeting Date:** Monday, September 11, 2017

**Convened:** 11:02 A.M. **Adjourned:** 12:47 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:**

**Staff Present:**

Assistant City Manager Jon Fortune, CMO  
Police Chief U. Renee Hall, DPD  
Executive Assistant Chief David Pughes, DPD  
Interim Director Cheritta Johnson, OCC  
Deputy Chief Gilberto Garza, DPD  
Assistant Chief Daniel Salazar, DFR  
Director Gloria Lopez Carter, CTS

Assistant Director Ryan Rogers, CTS  
Major William Griffith, DPD  
Dr. Marshall Isaacs, MD, UTSW  
Assistant City Attorney Pavala Armstrong, CAO  
Assistant Chief Randall Blankenbaker, DPD  
Administrative Judge Daniel Solis, JUD

**AGENDA:**

**Call to Order**

**1. Approval of Minutes from the August 14, 2017 Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee Meeting**

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

**Information Only:**

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):**

A motion was made to approve the August 14, 2017 minutes.

**Motion made by:** DMPT Medrano

**Item passed unanimously:**

**Item failed unanimously:**

**Motion Seconded by:** CM Greyson

**Item passed on a divided vote:**

**Item failed on a divided vote:**

## 2. Monthly Crime Report

**Presenter(s):** Police Chief Renee Hall, DPD

**Information Only:**

### **Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):**

This briefing provided the committee with an update on the year to date crime report for January 1 – August 31, 2017 and the month to month crime report for August 1-31, 2017. Chief Hall will create a Citizen Advisory Board for each substation and she will also have a Board. The goal of the Boards is to bring them to the table to let their voices be heard so DPD can get their individual input along with their collective input with that respective community. This will provide a platform to address the concerns that the community needs. CM Kingston would like to review the discussed changes to the Civilian Police Review Board at a future meeting. CM Felder would like to schedule a tour of South Dallas Fair Park and other areas of his district and introduce her to the community. CM Greyson asked how would the Crime Watch Groups work with the Citizen Review Board since some member are very active. Chief Hall explained that this new Board isn't going to replace anything but is an additive. In regards to taskforces, Chief Hall will utilize what the department has in place instead of going to any outside agencies.

**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. Pilot Panhandling Initiative

**Presenter(s):** Interim Director Cheritta Johnson, Office of Community Care

**Information Only:**

### **Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):**

This briefing provided the committee with an update on the Pilot Panhandling Initiative. MPT Caraway requested a breakdown of the stats that were mentioned for FY15 and FY16 relating to reports generated from 311. He also expressed his concern on how the number of calls presented don't reflect the actually amount of aggressive panhandling activity in Districts 4 and 7. It stated that it seems the panhandlers all have the same type of cardboard sign and language and he would like staff to look into the source of how they are working together, creating their signs, etc. so the City can track down the businesses. MPT Caraway would also like to explore some type of deterrent for the people giving the money along with stronger enforcement. CM Greyson thinks it would be a good idea to hold a press conference to start an educational initiative and stated that in her district it's not homeless people but people who are doing this as a business.

DMPT Medrano would like to see stats on how many people are not homeless and would also like to see a community awareness components on the effects of giving to panhandlers and "drive-by feeding". CM Felder believes that panhandling is a derivative of homelessness and would like to see a taskforce along with the Homeless Taskforce to get to the root of the problem. Also, a push in the effort to try and get these individuals employed. Chair McGough expressed his concern with the way the data is being captured as presented through the reports from 311 and that it's a problem. Sometime in the future we will need an executive session on case laws as it relates to enforcement. He is interested in treating this problem more as a business. Would like to see about using business enforcement techniques in certain areas; if staff can start looking into that.

**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. K2 Overview

**Presenter(s):** Deputy Chief Gilberto Garza, DPD and Assistant Chief Daniel Salazar, DFR

**Information Only:**

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):**

This briefing provided the committee with an update on K2. Staff will bring back to the committee sometime in the future a multi-prong approach to handling this problem. Chair McGough would like to know what the action steps are and staff will come back with some more specific tasks. MPT Caraway would like to know what actions have taken place between 2010 when the City Council passed an ordinance to ban K2 to 2013. He believes that some funeral homes are involved in selling formaldehyde to dealers. Funeral homes with an overabundance of ordering formaldehyde and stores that are illegally selling single cigarettes are some things that he would like staff to look into. He would like staff to schedule a meeting with him to discuss K2 solutions.

CM Felder would like to know if there is a way to require funeral homes to register and report their formaldehyde purchases and would like to create an ordinance penalizing single cigarette sales in any store and limit the number of smoke shops in each council district. Staff explained that the City does have a Paraphernalia Ordinance in place where staff is tracking those paraphernalia shops and that it limits how many can be in a particular area. He would like to know how many smoke shops are in D7 and provide their locations and any violations. At 2613 S. Lancaster, there is a smoke shop that MPT Caraway is trying to prevent from opening and would like staff to investigate the legality of the proposed smoke shop.

**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. Court Technology Improvements

**Presenter(s):** Assistant Director Ryan Rogers, CTS

**Information Only:**

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):**

Staff provided the committee with an update on technology improvements within the Court & Detention Services Department. The majority of complaints that CM Greyson receives is that citizens have to come to the Municipal Court twice (once to plead not guilty and again to get a court date) and feels there should be a better solution for this. Staff stated that the FaceTime option for the future can possibly solve this issue. She would like staff to make this option a priority.

**Motion made by:**

**Item passed unanimously:**

**Item failed unanimously:**

**Motion Seconded by:**

**Item passed on a divided vote:**

**Item failed on a divided vote:**

**6. Administrative (Police) Reports**

**Presenter(s):** Major William Griffith, DPD

**Information Only:**

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):**

Staff provided the committee with an informational memo on cases: Control #2017-166 and Control #2015-206.

**Motion made by:**

**Item passed unanimously:**

**Item failed unanimously:**

**Motion Seconded by:**

**Item passed on a divided vote:**

**Item failed on a divided vote:**

**7. Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee Action Matrix**

**Presenter(s):** Assistant City Manager Jon Fortune, DPD

**Information Only:**

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):**

Staff provided the committee with responses to the requests/questions asked during the Monday, August 14, 2017 Committee Meeting 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:**

**8. Upcoming Agenda Item(s)**

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

**Information Only:**

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):**

Vice Chair Kingston wants to know on Item No. 32 whether any of the source of funds are civil asset forfeiture. A motion was made to move these upcoming agenda items forward with recommendation to full Council.

**Motion made by:** DPMT Medrano

**Item passed unanimously:**

**Item failed unanimously:**

**Motion Seconded by:** MPT Caraway

**Item passed on a divided vote:**

**Item failed on a divided vote:**

**APPROVED BY:**

**ATTEST:**

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

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Crystal Lee, Coordinator  
Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee