

Metro Public Safety Advisory Committee

General Committee Meeting #14

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

A. Zoom Meeting Protocols

Facilitator Richard France called the meeting to order. Facilitator Thomson Dryjanski announced Spanish and American Sign Language interpreter services would be available throughout the meeting.

B. Agenda

Facilitator France reviewed the agenda for the meeting. .

C. Roll Call

Present: Ashley Ajayi, Carrie Madden, Chauncey Smith, Clarence Davis, Constance Strickland, Darryl Goodus, Esteban Garcia, Fabian Gallardo, Florence Annang, Glenda Murrell, James Wen, Jose Raigoza, Maricela De Rivera, Mohammad Tajsar, Dr. Sabrina Howard, Scarlett de Leon

Absent: Jessica Kellogg, Ma'ayan Dembo, Raul Gomez

D. Approval of Meeting Minutes for 10/20/21

Committee members voted to approve the meeting minutes for the October 20, 2021 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

II. General Public Comment

Public comment was taken from meeting participants. The following comments were shared:

- A. Commentor with the Advancement Project California expressed support for the cancellation of policing contracts and the reinvestment of funds into community safety alternatives.
- B. Commentor alleged that they were wrongfully terminated from their job as a security contractor with American Eagle Protection Services, a subcontractor of RMI (who provides Metro's infrastructure protection services) for reporting alleged illegal activities of other private security personnel. They requested for the owner of RMI to speak to PSAC regarding alleged "illegal activities and arrests."
 - a. Member Florence Annang commented she would like to learn more about these allegations.
- C. Commentor Dr. Chris B. Liban from the Metro Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Steering Committee highlighted that they are considering training and recognition of the Asian American community as part of their policy platform. They also submitted written statement that was distributed to PSAC.

III. Discussion

A. Proposal to Approve the Mission & Values Statements

Facilitator France reviewed [final draft of the PSAC Public Safety Mission & Values statements](#) and requested feedback from the committee.

- a. **Context & process:** France detailed the recent efforts to provide edits on the statements. In advance of this meeting, a small working group of members met to make any wordsmithing changes and finalized the mission and values statements.

- b. **Request for agenda modification:** Member Ajayi proposed for committee members to move the mission and values to later in the agenda, in order to approve the other agenda items first and have an extended discussion on modifications to the statements.
 - i. Member Annang stressed that today's meeting already has a full agenda and would like to not shift the agenda order.
 - ii. Member Wen shared it's important to finalize the mission and values statements set to use as a guiding system for future PSAC decision-making.
 - iii. The agenda was not restructured.
- c. **Proposal to edit mission and value statements:** Member Ajayi proposed edits to the statements. These edits proposed adding Metro's actions on dependable transit service to the "Emphasizing Compassion and a Culture of Care" statement and removing "human centered" from the "Implementing a Human-Centered Approach" value.
 - i. Member Wen agreed to adding dependability but not the "human-centered" change.
 - ii. Member Annang shared they are in support of adding dependability if it does not replace "fair treatment."
 - iii. Facilitator proposed suggested adding dependability as a fourth pillar.
 - 1. Member De Rivera responded they do strongly support adding the term "dependability."
- d. **Public Comment**
 - i. Commentor responded to a committee member and stated that dependability is definitely the responsibility of MTA.
- e. **Test for consensus:** Facilitator France proposed approving the mission and values statements, with the addition of dependability to the "Emphasizing Compassion and a Culture of Care" statement.
 - i. Members Ajayi and Davis seconded moving forward with the dependability addition. There were no concerns from other members.
- f. **Vote to approve modified Mission and Values statements**
 - i. Yes: 14 No: 0 Abstain: 0
 - ii. The item was approved.

B. Proposal to Approve Metro Staff Recommendations for the Infrastructure Protection Services Contract Extension

Committee members discussed endorsing Metro staff recommendations that would modify the contract provisions for the Infrastructure Protection Services contract.

- a. **Body worn camera alternatives:** Metro staff Judy Gerhardt clarified that Metro does not explicitly recommend the vendor mentioned in the recommendations and only included it as an example.
- b. **Timeline and alternative financing:** Member Wen asked if the committee will be able to be vote on the recommendations again in six months if they are not approved today. He also inquired if alternative forms of financing were considered to fund body worn cameras.
 - i. Facilitator France responded that if PSAC decides to not vote on IPS recommendations, Metro will present their staff recommendations without PSAC's comment.
 - 1. Additionally, recommendations from the IPS ad hoc committee will be brought to the full PSAC committee in early 2022.
 - ii. Metro staff Judy Gerhardt shared that for this extension, alternative forms of financing were not something that could be considered but Metro may consider alternatives in the future.
- c. **Proposal to move forward:** Facilitator France proposed that the committee voted on approving Metro staff recommendations, with the exclusion of the body worn camera recommendations. This exclusion was due to a lack of consensus around this topic.
 - i. Members Ajayi, Smith, and Davis agreed with advancing this proposal.
- d. **Public comment period:** There were no public comments on this item.
- e. **Test for consensus:** Members agreed to vote upon approving Metro staff recommendations,

with the exclusion of supporting the body worn camera alternatives recommendations.

- i. In advance of the vote, Member Wen asked if the contract extension is for six months totaling \$19M with RMI as the contractor.
 1. Metro Staff Imelda Hernandez confirmed this is correct.
- f. **Vote to approve modified recommendations from Metro staff on the IPS contract extension.**
 - i. Yes: 3 No: 9 Abstain: 2
 - ii. The item was not approved.
- g. **Next steps:** The facilitation team will draft a memo to communicate PSAC's decision to the Metro Board.

C. Proposal to Approve Policing Practices Ad Hoc Committee Response to Metro Staff Recommendations for the Multi-Agency Law Enforcement Contract Extensions

The sub-committee presented their recommendations which responded to Metro staff's recommendations for amendments to the contract and received feedback from the larger committee.

- a. **Response Overview:** Member Scarlett de Leon shared the proposed position to not support a six-month extension. Member Chauncey Smith presented the committee's suggested recommendations for alternative public safety strategies that should receive the contract extension's allocated funding
- b. **Questions and Feedback from PSAC**
 - i. **Previous policing models:** Member Carrie Madden asked why Metro reverted from a non-contracted policing model in 2009.
 1. Member Smith indicated that public demands for policing affected the agency's decision.
 2. Metro Staff Member Gerhardt shared a [document detailing the history of Metro policing](#). She clarified that Metro never had a non-contracted policing model.
 - ii. **Metro's decision-making process:** Member Wen asked what Metro would do if PSAC votes to not support the extension.
 1. Member de Leon responded that the final decision lies with the Metro board, but they should consider PSAC's opinion when making that decision.
 - iii. **Public opinion:** Member De Rivera called out the public comments that call for increased presence of police as being important in this decision. She shared that the survey conducted by Metro demonstrated support on both sides, with respondents wanting more or fewer police equally.
 - iv. **Funding allocations:** Member Tajsar expressed his support for the recommendations and highlighted that Metro's reallocation for public health services was for less than \$2.5 million. He felt this funding should be dramatically increased.
 - v. **Support for law enforcement:** Member Garcia shared his personal positive experiences with law enforcement and how he struggles with the need for their continued presence.
 1. Member Strickland shared her experiences from a ride-along with LASD where the officers advocated for increased public health services, because they are not trained to provide them. She also emphasized that community efforts around public health need to be foregrounded in this new funding allocation.
 2. Member Smith clarified that quality-of-life issues can be addressed by providing the correct services to the appropriate situations, rather than allocating those tasks to law enforcement.
 - a. Smith also clarified that the proposal is not to eradicate the police, but rather to have Metro not pay for a special contract. Instead, responding to issues on the Metro system would be the responsibility of the individual municipal police departments as part of their standard tasks.
- c. **Public Comment:**
 - i. Commentor expressed disappointment with the committee's stance on ending the contract with law enforcement without first putting in place any public safety alternatives.

- d. **Additional questions and feedback:**
 - i. **Phasing decreased funding:** Member Wen asked for an amendment to the recommendations that would take a stepped phasing process to decrease funding for Metro law enforcement partners.
 - 1. Facilitator France clarified that these recommendations are only for the six-month extension and this recommendation might be better suited for a longer-term proposal.
 - ii. **Police scope:** Member De Rivera stated that they are not anti-police, instead they feel that law enforcement is asked to do take on tasks (mental health, homeless services, etc.) that are not their job.
 - iii. **Transit ambassadors:** Member Madden recommended to replace officers with the forthcoming Transit Ambassadors to continue having a public safety presence on the system.
 - iv. **Communicating this decision:** Member Wen asked Metro to share how they will be sharing the results of Metro Board's vote on this topic with the public.
 - 1. Metro Staff Gerhardt responded that Metro has a communications department that will inform the public and riders of the Metro Board's decision.
- e. **Vote:**
 - i. Yes: 14 No: 0 Abstain: 0
 - ii. The item was approved.

IV. General Public Comment

Public comment was taken from meeting participants. The following comments were shared:

- A. Commentor stated that they disagree with PSAC's decision to not support a contract extension. They stated that police are needed to deter violent crimes on the system.

V. Adjournment

- A. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM

VI. Next Steps

- A. The committee will reconvene on November 17, 2021.