

# Metro Public Safety Advisory Committee

## General Committee Meeting #13

### MINUTES

Wednesday, October 20, 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 day and announced updates to presentation/participation protocols.

##### C. Roll Call

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

**Absent:** Andrea Urmanita, Ma'ayan Dembo, Raul Gomez

##### D. Approval of Meeting Minutes for 10/06/21

A vote was taken to approve the meeting minutes for the October 06, 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 Alliance for Community Transit LA shared that it's important for them that PSAC members discuss safety solutions that do not rely on policing and the importance of a transit ambassador program providing union jobs.
- B. Commentor suggested utilizing retired, unarmed bus operators as a type of alternative security, as was done previously when the Blue Line was being refurbished.
- C. Commentor noted they have specific concerns about the safety of children riding on the train.

#### III. Discussion

##### A. Metro Staff Recommendations for Contract Amendments to be Incorporated into the Infrastructure Protection Services (IPS) Contract Extension

Facilitator France provided an overview of the IPS ad hoc committee's (AHC) work thus far and led a discussion with PSAC members on the memorandum.

- a. **Context Setting:** Facilitator France began by reviewing the timeline that led up to these staff recommendations, including what the ad hoc committee has accomplished and next steps.
- b. **Metro's staff recommendations vs. the draft AHC recommendations:** Member Gallardo asked if the committee would review the memo Metro staff has provided or the unfinished list of draft recommendations the IPS ad hoc committee worked on.
  - i. Facilitator France clarified that the committee would discuss Metro's memo tonight

but can also provide the IPS ad hoc committee's unfinished draft recommendations as well.

- ii. Member Gallardo responded that the committee should be able to see the full spectrum of what has been discussed before voting on it.
  - iii. Facilitator France assured that all recommendations will be shared with the General Committee once they are approved by the ad-hoc committee.
  - iv. Member Smith suggested that committee members be given an opportunity to discuss and/or vote on the full list of recommendations.
    1. Facilitator France clarified that the full list of recommendations originating from the AHC is still being worked on and the committee will not get a chance to vote on it next week. They will get a chance to discuss the AHC draft recommendations today, in addition to Metro's memo.
- c. **AHC Members' Insight:** Member Madden shared that it's difficult to discuss the AHC draft recommendations because they haven't had a chance to cover all items completely as a group. She asked the committee for patience as they continue drafting recommendations.
- i. Similarly, Member Garcia invited committee members who are not part of the ad hoc committee to trust that their questions, mission, and concerns are being voiced.
  - ii. Member Goodus echoed Member Garcia's comment and shared that the ad-hoc committee focused on training and background check components – which were incorporated into Metro's memo.
  - iii. Member Constance Strickland shared the ad hoc committee is conscious of the concerns of the larger committee and is not making any rushed decisions.
- d. **Cost increases:** Member Gallardo added that they have a concern around cost increases that are attached to the amendments suggested in Metro staff's recommendations.
- i. Member Smith also voiced concern that Metro made decisions on which recommendations to implement based on costs, deeming certain recommendations too expensive to implement.
  - ii. Metro Chief of Staff Englund responded that this is just for the six-month extension, therefore it needs to make sense for the contractor to invest for a shorter timeframe. She added that additional modifications may be requested with the forthcoming recommendations for a new scope of work (SOW) for the future IPS contracts.
- e. **Funding Source:** Member James Wen asked if the budget for the IPS contract extension is coming from the \$40 million detailed in Metro Board Motion 26.2 or from a separate source.
- i. Metro Staff Member Nicole Englund responded that funding is coming from general budgeting for security and law enforcement, not the \$40M.
- f. **Feedback on Metro's Memo:** Member Garcia commented that security contractors are operating within Metro's stations and facilitates, therefore requiring less need to be placed on body-worn cameras because there is an extensive network of surveillance cameras.
- i. Member Murrell shared that as a frontline worker and vehicle operator, Metro security should be more accountable and visible.
- g. **Metro Presentation on Body-Worn Camera Alternative:** Metro Staff Judy Gerhardt shared a brief presentation on an alternative to body-worn cameras. She proposed the use of a phone app-based video recording solution to be used in place of the investment in body-worn cameras.
- B. Proposal for a Mission and Values Statement for Public Safety on Metro**
- a. Facilitator France shared survey results from the mission and values proposal. 67% of members were ready to approve top picks.
    - i. The facilitation team proposed revising statements, wordsmithing with some committee members, and bringing final statements for approval on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. A redlined copy of edits will be provided in advance of November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
    - ii. There was general agreement for this proposal.
- C. Proposal to Adopt Executive Committee Model**
- a. **Survey Results:** Facilitator France reviewed survey results for the executive committee model and provided an overview of the ranked choice methodology that was used to arrive at the facilitators proposal.
    - i. Using the ranked choice methodology, the "executive committee" model had the most

- support with seven votes.
    - ii. He clarified that the survey was not a vote nor a final decision but as a data point to visualize committee sentiments.
    - iii. France also presented a proposal to move forward with the executive committee model and opened the floor for any concerns/changes from members.
  - b. **Member Feedback:** Member Smith expressed concern for an incorrect outcome from having members' votes deleted. He also asked for survey processes to be shared in advance of meetings moving forward.
    - i. Facilitator France clarified the methodology used to reallocate votes did not delete anyone's votes. Additionally, he noted that these results are not a final decision/vote.
    - ii. Member De Rivera indicated that she would prefer the committee move forward by selecting one of the models.
    - iii. Members Annang, Ajayi, and Garcia expressed their understanding of the ranking methodology and necessity for reallocating votes to reach a majority.
    - iv. Members Annang and Ajayi also shared they had some initial confusion that was cleared up during the presentation and would like to move forward with a model.
  - c. **Next Steps:** After members were unable to reach consensus on a proposal, Facilitator France tabled the discussion due to time constraints.
- D. **Motion to Approve Charter Amendment to Include Advisory Body Compensation Policy**
  - a. Facilitator France reviewed the proposed charter amendment. This amendment incorporates Metro's advisory body compensation policy.
    - i. Member Clarence Davis asked if this was something the committee had already voted on.
      - 1. Facilitator France clarified the Metro Board recently voted on compensation for advisory bodies but the PSAC Committee had not voted on.
    - ii. A vote was taken to approve the charter amendment.
      - 1. Members Tajsar and Davis abstained. All other present members voted yes.
      - 2. The charter amendment was approved.

#### IV. General Public Comment

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

- A. Commentor highlighted their safety concerns for their child riding the Gold Line to Duarte and asked for visible officers in Metro cars to mitigate dangerous encounters during times of high student ridership.
- B. Commentor shared her students' experiences with trash, drugs, and harassment while riding the Metro Gold Line to Duarte and asked for security officers on trains during hours where kids are riding.
- C. Commentor also asked for more security during times where teens are riding to ensure they are not harassed.
- D. Commentor reported two altercations with homeless people at the middle school they work at. They requested a response from the committee.
- E. Commentor Channing Martinez from the Strategy Center expressed confusion around the companies under contract for the IPS contract extension and asked for all background documents to be provided for public meetings. He also shared the negative experience organizers have had with RMI security contractors.

#### V. Adjournment

- A. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

#### VI. Next Steps

- A. The committee will reconvene on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.