

Metro Public Safety Advisory Committee

General Committee Meeting #18

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 5th, 2022

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 interpretation services would be available during the meeting.

B. Agenda

Facilitator France reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

C. Roll Call

Present: Andrea Urmanita, Ashley Ajayi, Carrie Madden, Chauncey Smith, Constance Strickland, Darryl Goodus, Esteban Garcia, Florence Annang, Glenda Murrell, James Wen, Jose Raigoza, Ma'ayan Dembo, Maricela De Rivera, Dr. Sabrina Howard, Scarlett de Leon

Absent: Clarence Davis, Fabian Gallardo, Jessica Kellogg, Mohammad Tajsar, Raul Gomez

D. Approval of Meeting Minutes for 12/15/21

Committee members voted to approve the meeting minutes for the December 15th, 2021 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

II. General Public Comment

Public comment was taken from meeting participants. No comments were received.

III. Discussion

A. Discussion of Infrastructure Protection Services (IPS) Recommendations

The IPS ad hoc committee provided final recommendations and asked the Committee to provide feedback on the firearms recommendations. This recommendation was presented for discussion as members of the ad hoc committee were unable to reach consensus and wanted the General Committee to weigh in.

- a. **Offering two recommendations:** Members Madden and Strickland represented the IPS ad hoc committee and presented the two options for weapons recommendations—reducing the provision of firearms to IPS personnel gradually (option one) or eliminating the provision of firearms to IPS personnel immediately (option two).

- i. Member Strickland emphasized that these recommendations would not take place for the current IPS contract but as a recommendation for future contracts. Additionally, she noted this only applied to IPS personnel, not officers from LAPD or the Sheriff's Department.
 - ii. Facilitator France added that Metro supports the option to reduce 10% of armed personnel.
 - b. **IPS Scope:** Member Dembo asked for clarification on what the IPS scope covers in comparison to the contracted law enforcement contract.
 - i. Member Smith responded that IPS serves brick-and-mortar operations facilities and has some limited engagement with members of the public.
 - c. **Data Concerns:** Members shared their concern with not having enough data on outcomes before choosing a recommendation option.
 - i. Member Goodus shared his worry about the number of calls IPS personnel respond to regarding trespassers. He also noted that there is a lack of data to support the benefits of removing firearms. Those considerations informed his decision to support only a small reduction in armed personnel.
 - 1. Member Murrell echoed her support for option one because, as a Metro operator, she sees having armed security as a deterrent for intruders.
 - a. Member Garcia emphasized Member Murrell's experience as a Metro worker and shared his support for option one.
 - ii. Member Ajayi asked if an IPS contractor will allocate resources to gather data on outcomes.
 - 1. Metro Staff Gerhardt responded that part of the revised IPS scope of work asked for specific data collection and accountability measures, which includes data on the use of force and firearms. She added that option one of the recommendations would include a deep analysis on the impact of weapons reductions.
 - iii. Member Howard asked if data exists on whether deterrents are a result of the presence of armed security or just increased security in general.
 - 1. Member Annang also asked for information on the impact of armed security versus unarmed security.
 - 2. Member Murrell shared that the most important piece for her is having security presence, whether armed with firearms or not.
 - iv. Members Strickland and Madden also shared their support for more detailed and consistent data.
 - d. **Support for Reducing Armed IPS Personnel Gradually**
 - i. Member and Metro operator Raigoza expressed his support for this option because of the positive impact contracted security has had, notably reducing trespassers and providing increased security for employees working at night.
 - ii. Member de Rivera shared that her support of an option ultimately relies on results from data. At the moment, she is leaning towards option one if Metro workers feel it is necessary for a gradual reduction in armed security.
 - e. **Test for consensus for moving forward with option one**
 - i. Facilitator France proposed the committee move forward with a recommendation to support option one.
 - ii. Members Dembo and Smith shared that they would not be able to support the recommendations if option one is selected.
 - f. **Public Comment**
 - i. Commentor expressed their support for option one because it is a more responsible

and reasonable selection.

g. Test for consensus to vote to approve IPS recommendations absent a recommendation for weapons.

- i. Facilitator France proposed the committee table the weapons recommendation and vote to approve the other remaining recommendations. The weapons recommendation will be a topic for discussion at the 01/19/22 General Committee meeting.
- ii. Member Wen shared that he prefers committee members vote for an option for weapons tonight.
- iii. Metro Chief of Staff Englund suggested that the committee and Metro find a compromise, such as a reduction greater than 10%.
 1. Member Wen suggested a 25% reduction.
- iv. Member Smith requested a note be added to recommendations that explains why the committee did not provide a weapons suggestion.
- v. Facilitator France indicated the committee would return to the weapons conversation during the next committee meeting.
 1. Member Smith requested transparency around the voting process when the time comes.

h. Vote to approve IPS recommendations absent a weapons recommendation

- i. Yes: 12 No: 0 Abstain:1
- ii. The item was approved.

B. Discussion of Home at Last (HAL) Short-term Shelter Program Recommendations

The committee discussed and then approved the recommendations for the HAL Short-term Shelter Program.

a. Context-setting:

Ad Hoc committee members Strickland and Annang provided an overview of recommendations to endorse the program, provide programmatic amendments, and additional recommendations for Metro.

b. Questions and Comments

- i. Member Garcia asked where the facility is located.
 1. Metro Staff indicated the shelter is located near Western and Manchester.
- ii. Member Wen requested adding “implement” to recommendation four to read “Explore and implement special accommodations.”
 1. Facilitator France commented that because Metro is not operating the shelter, only funding it, the main recommendation from the committee is to continue funding the program. Additional recommendations from the committee are only advisory.
- iii. Member Ajayi asked for ad hoc committee members' general sentiment regarding the facility.
 1. Member Annang shared that visiting the shelter was a positive experience and the environment was welcoming and provided many amenities.
 2. Member Strickland added that the shelter team cared about their work, provided services many others cannot, and that she heard positive feedback from people staying at the center. She mentioned that it could benefit from more cleaning services.
- iv. Member Goodus shared his support for continuing to endorse the program and praised Metro for diving into this issue.
- v. Member de Rivera expressed her gratitude for the center being open during the COVID-19 pandemic and storms.

- c. **Vote to approve ad hoc committee recommendations for the Home at Last program**
 - i. Yes: 12 No: 0 Abstain:0
 - ii. The item was approved.

- d. **Next steps:** Facilitator Mahdi announced that the facilitation team will draft and circulate a PSAC memo to be included alongside Metro's recommendations.
 - i. Facilitator France added that the team will also be drafting a process to vote on the options regarding firearms.

IV. General Public Comment

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

- A. Commentor shared that they are not in support of reducing security and suggested committee members ride on one of Metro's lines before the next meeting.

V. Adjournment

- A. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM

VI. Next Steps

- A. The committee will reconvene on January 19, 2022.