

Metro Public Safety Advisory Committee

General Committee Meeting #17

MINUTES

Wednesday, December 15th, 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 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, Clarence Davis, Constance Strickland, Darryl Goodus, Esteban Garcia, Fabian Gallardo, Florence Annang, Glenda Murrell, James Wen, Jose Raigoza, Ma'ayan Dembo, Maricela De Rivera, Mohammad Tajsar, Dr. Sabrina Howard, Scarlett de Leon, Jessica Kellogg

Absent: Raul Gomez

D. **Approval of Meeting Minutes for 11/29/21**

Committee members voted to approve the meeting minutes for the November 29th, 2021 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

II. General Public Comment

Public comment was taken from meeting participants.

- A. Commentor from the Labor Community Strategy Center apologized for the attacks PSAC has been receiving from the LA County Sheriff's office and shared he is grateful to have had a chance to speak to the ad committee.
- B. Commentor also stated that the Sheriff's office has made some unfair statements regarding PSAC and added that they hope Metro's long-standing security system issue finds a solution soon.
- C. Commentor shared that as a wheelchair user with a significant disability, they feel that it's necessary for Metro to keep the private security currently in place.
- D. As a follow-up comment, Member de Rivera requested additional accessibility updates for PSAC meeting including translating comments in the chat, spoken descriptions of visuals on slides, and having interpretation available in more languages.

III. Discussion

Committee members had a open discussion with Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins and an external facilitation team on PSAC's current progress and working methods.

A. **6 Month Reflection Process – Conversation with the CEO**

- a. **Context-setting:** Facilitator France reviewed PSAC's decision making process and

commitment to having a reflection period following any action by Metro's Board of Directors on PSAC recommendations.

- b. **CEO Wiggins:** The CEO thanked committee members for their work to ensure Metro is meeting its safety needs, emphasized Metro's commitment to partnership with community, and summarized the committee's next steps.
 - c. **Communication tools for partnership:** LaShanya Aikerson and Chrystina Katz facilitated a workshop on communication tools and meeting structures that can be used for actionable change. They stressed the importance of communication styles, reviewed the four dominant personality types, and shared some tools to facilitate difficult conversations.
 - i. Members Tajsar and Gallardo asked for clarity around the purpose of tonight's workshop.
 - 1. Facilitator Aikerson shared that the goal for tonight was to offer more tools for collaboration.
 - ii. Member Annang shared that the tools mentioned were already in use during committee meetings and the hurdles for PSAC are based on the recommendation's substance, not the process.
 - iii. Member Smith shared appreciation for the intention of the workshop but commented that the conversation feels unnecessary. He also expressed appreciation for Facilitator France.
 - 1. Various members echoed their appreciation for the facilitation team.
 - iv. Member de Rivera thanked CEO Wiggins for taking the time to join PSAC's meeting and expressed her support for bolder policies.
 - 1. Member Annang echoed Member de Rivera's comment, stated that the conversation with the CEO was a great learning opportunity. She also mentioned that in-person meeting opportunities could be beneficial to the process of building trust within the committee.
 - d. **Budget:** Member Dembo shared that Metro needs to have a larger budget for policing alternatives.
 - i. CEO Wiggins replied that they are currently working on finalizing concepts for alternatives to be included in FY23 budget development – going to the Metro Board in May – to have a better idea of the budget for policing alternatives.
 - e. **Bus and Rail Operators:** Member Ajayi shared that a missing component from the public safety discussion is the need for reliable transit service. She also added that PSAC should make space to hear from operators.
 - i. CEO Wiggins stressed that the operators' primary concern is safety and Metro is constantly working towards improving their wellbeing.
 - f. **Green Spaces:** Member Davis shared his experience with a lack of green/open spaces to highlight a need to include facilities for rest and recreation near public transportation.
- B. **January Meeting Schedule:** Facilitator Mahdi reviewed the topics for the two General Committee meetings in January – January 5th (Infrastructure Protection Services and Home at Last short-term shelter program recommendations) and January 15th (Policing Practices ad hoc committee recommendations and guest speaker).

IV. General Public Comment

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

- A. Commentor stated that there has been a lack of visible Metro security on trains and platforms in Long Beach for years.
- B. Commentor thanked PSAC members for the conversation and echoed comments that the problem is collaboration with Metro Board, not communication within the committee. They also recommended that PSAC bring in speakers already working on security alternatives.
- C. Commentor recommended the committee work on finding more practical solutions to slowly shift away from police instead of calling for defunding. They also recommended inviting people opposing PSAC's

recommendations, including the Sherriff, to join one of the General Committee meetings.

- D. Commentor shared their disagreement with moving away from armed law enforcement on Metro. They shared their negative experience of being physically assaulted by a homeless individual while riding the Metro Gold Line.
- E. Commentor stated that the proposal to replace LASD with Metro Transit Ambassadors is dangerous because of the excessive amount of violence and public health issues.
- F. Commentor shared their negative experience with homeless individuals and public health issues while riding the Expo Line to work.

V. Adjournment

- A. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM

VI. Next Steps

- A. The committee will reconvene on January 5, 2022.