

Metro Public Safety Advisory Committee General Committee Meeting #19

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 19th, 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, Clarence Davis, Constance Strickland, Darryl Goodus, Esteban Garcia, Florence Annang, Fabian Gallardo, Glenda Murrell, James Wen, Jessica Kellogg, Jose Raigoza, Ma'ayan Dembo, Maricela De Rivera, Scarlett de Leon

Absent: Mohammad Tajsar, Raul Gomez, Dr. Sabrina Howard

D. Approval of Meeting Minutes for 01/05/22

Committee members voted to approve the meeting minutes for the January 5th, 2022 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

II. General Public Comment

Public comment was taken from meeting participants.

- A. Commentor shared his negative experience with dirty and unsafe Metro trains/buses.

III. Discussion

A. Discussion of Infrastructure Protection Services

The Committee discussed and voted on the IPS weapons recommendation that was tabled during the previous general committee meeting.

- a. **Context setting:** Prior to the meeting, members completed a survey to get a sense of which option members prefer.
- b. **Survey results:** ~53% of members preferred the gradual reduction of armed IPS personnel (option #1), compared to ~46% who preferred an immediate disarmament (option #2). All

members were willing to stand aside if their preferred option was not the consensus option.

- c. **Proposal to move to a vote:** Facilitator France proposed that the committee modify its decision-making process. Instead of for one option, the committee would choose either “option 1,” “option 2,” or abstain from the vote. Whichever outcome achieved a majority (eight votes) would be the committee’s recommendation. Endorsers of the losing option would have the opportunity to write a dissenting opinion.

- i. Members agreed to this proposal and the item moved to a vote.

- d. **Public Comment:**

- i. Commentor shared that as a rider with a disability, they support a gradual reduction.

- e. **Vote to approve IPS recommendations absent a weapons recommendation**

- i. Option #1: 6 Obtain #2: 6 Abstain: 1 Absent: 2

- ii. Neither option achieved a simple majority, therefore the committee did not endorse either option.

B. Discussion of Policing Practices Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation on the Multi-Agency Policing Contact Scope of Work

The committee discussed and then approved the ad hoc committee policing contract recommendations.

- a. **Context-setting:** The policing practices committee recommended that Metro phase out the contracted law enforcement model, with the understanding that a forthcoming policing contract would be an interim measure that would allow the agency to implement an alternative model. The recommendations under review are specifically related to the forthcoming policing contract. The recommendation regarding an alternative law enforcement model would require additional discussion with Metro.

- b. **Riders with disabilities:** Member Davis shared his concern with Metro staff’s response to recommendation #8 and stressed the importance of not requiring individuals to be placed in specific body positions during arrest procedures.

- c. **General comments on recommendations:**

- i. Member Goodus shared that he disagreed with several of the recommendations. He also supports funding mental health services but not at the expense of cutting current policing services.

- d. **Funding and resources:**

- i. Member Dembo asked Metro to speak to how reimbursement for police services at special events is structured.

- 1. Metro Staff Gerhardt shared that, in the current contract, expenditures from special events were part of the overall contract value and were approved by Metro Board. Additional funding was required last year because there was not enough funding within the contract value for the total approved events.

- ii. Member Raigoza asked budget can go towards overtime for security services during

unexpected events. This would help to minimize disruptions and improve the overall customer experience.

1. Metro Staff Gerhardt responded that there is some flexibility in expenditures, but beyond the requested budget, additional expenditures must first be approved by Metro.
 2. Member Davis shared his support for more transit ambassadors to assist at unexpected events.
 - a. Member de Rivera echoed support for unarmed security.
- iii. Member Smith clarified that the recommendations are not proposing a removal of the role of law enforcement but rather phasing out of contracted services paid for by Metro.
1. Metro Staff Gerhardt responded that currently Metro has 600 law enforcement officers ready to respond to emergency calls. If they were not contracted, they would no longer be available.
 - a. Member Davis recommended calling for a reduction in contracted law enforcement officers instead of a complete removal.
 - b. Member de Rivera commented that crowd control techniques are often racialized and asked Metro to consider how law enforcement responds during events.

e. Oversight and tracking:

- i. Member Ajayi asked Metro what kinds of additional resources will be employed to ensure Metro has additional oversight.
 1. Metro Staff Gerhardt shared that internally, Metro had the Office of Civil Rights, Office of Ethics, the Office of the Inspector General, and the CEO who all have oversight powers.
 2. Member Smith stressed the importance of community oversight adding to what Metro already has in place.
 3. He added that racial disparities in citations demonstrate that the current overall system needs improvement.
- ii. Member Goodus shared concern about continuity of service and response time improvements if Metro moves away from contracted services. He added that the committee and Metro must continue working together to ensure the safety of all riders.
- iii. Member Annang recommended Metro connect with other city transit systems, including the Bay Area's BART oversight commission. She called for more research about efforts on transit systems around the country.
 1. Metro Staff Gerhardt responded that Metro requires all agencies to develop an oversight commission as part of their contract obligations.

f. Metro Policies:

- i. Member Garcia asked for clarification on the reasoning for recommendation #22 (engaging in anti-terrorism operations) and process for making recommendations that conflict with Metro.
 - 1. Member Dembo responded that the subcommittee felt that anti-terrorism can be addressed by alternatives to law-enforcement.
 - 2. Facilitator France added that recommendations first go to the CEO for consideration, then they are presented to the Metro Board.

g. Vote to approve ad hoc committee's policing contract recommendations

- i. Yes: 10 No: 3 Abstain:0 Absent: 2
- ii. The item was approved.

h. Next Steps: Facilitator France announced that the facilitation team will draft an outcomes memo for the CEO to present to the Metro Board.

IV. General Public Comment

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

- A. Commentor shared his experience as a rider with increased violence on Metro.
- B. Commentor shared that she has not seen statements from Metro when violent incidents occur and asked for the appropriate allocation of law enforcement on trains and buses.

V. Adjournment

- A. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM

VI. Next Steps

- A. The committee will reconvene on February 2, 2022.