

Metro Public Safety Advisory Committee

General Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

a. **Zoom Meeting Protocols**

- i. 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**

- i. Facilitator France reviewed the agenda for the meeting

c. **Roll Call**

Present: Ashley Ajayi, Florence Annang, Clarence Davis, Ma'ayan Dembo, Esteban Gallardo, Darryl Goodus, Charles Hammerstein, Sabrina Howard, Jessica Kellogg, Scarlett de Leon, Carrie Madden, Glenda Murrell, Jose Raigoza, Maricela de Rivera, Chauncey Smith, Constance Strickland,

Absent: Andrea Urmanita, James Wen, Mohammad Tajsar

d. **Approval of Meeting Minutes for 02/02/22**

- i. Committee members voted to approve the meeting minutes for the February 2nd, 2022, meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

II. General Public Comment

Public comment was taken from meeting participants.

- a. There were no requests for public comment.

III. Discussion

Presentation from Ben Adam Climer, Crisis Consulting

Ben Adam Climer of Crisis Consulting, and formerly of CAHOOTS in Eugene, OR shared a presentation on the CAHOOTS model of non-emergency first response.

- a. CAHOOTS is a non-emergency first response model, which pairs an EMT and crisis counselor to respond to calls for incidents.
- b. The model is designed to alleviate the burden on police, fire, and EMS, while providing the appropriate response to crisis derived from emotional distress, substance abuse, and homelessness.
- c. CAHOOTS can be dispatched through 911 or another non-emergency number; the dispatch determines the appropriate response for an incident and dispatches the appropriate service.

- d. **Member Q&A:** PSAC members asked Climer questions about the model, its implementation challenges, and potential application to Metro.
 - i. Member Smith asked how the presence of law enforcement effects the outcomes of incidents, citing concerns from racial justice and disability advocates.
 - 1. Climer emphasized that the CAHOOTS model doesn't utilize law enforcement unless absolutely necessary; approximately 10-15% of calls for CAHOOTS will involve law enforcement. Instead, he indicated that the CAHOOTS model is designed to relieve the burden from law enforcement. He also emphasized the need for extensive training of dispatchers.
 - ii. Member Howard asked how CAHOOTS worked to make community members aware of their model.
 - 1. Climer responded that they had done significant community outreach over the course of 30 years. Additionally, they engaged in trainings with social services staff.

Metro Presentation on the FY2022 Budget Process

Metro staff Melissa Wang and Irene Fine presented an overview of Metro's FY22 budget process. After this overview presentation, PSAC members asked questions of Metro staff.

- a. **Federal Funding:** Member Raigoza asked about how current federal funding allocations will affect the budget for the coming year.
 - i. Wang answered that most of that specific funding is for capital projects. Currently, they are projecting limited funding increases for the operation and maintenance of transit services. The agency is drafting their proposal to compete for their fair share of federal funding.
- b. **Resumption of Fares:** Member Ajayi asked how the resumption of fare collection on Metro transit has changed the budget and asked if there were plans for fareless transit in the future.
 - i. Wang responded that Metro is focused on building the LIFE and student fare programs. They will also be pursuing federal funding dedicated to fareless transit.
 - ii. Member de Leon asked what level of enrollment the LIFE program was at.
 - iii. Wang answered that the program has enrolled between 30-50% of its target number of participants.
- c. **Surveillance Budget:** Member Annang asked how Metro had allocated funding for surveillance in the past year.
 - i. Metro staff responded that they would follow up on this item.
- d. **Revenue Pathways:** Member de Leon asked if the revenue from fare collection is then used to fund fare enforcement.
 - i. Wang responded that once revenue is received, it does not have a

specified destination.

Summary of PSAC Work to Date

Facilitator France gave a summary of the recommendations passed by the PSAC General Committee. This includes the following:

- New Mission & Values statement for public safety on Metro
- Recommendations on the interim and forthcoming multi-agency policing contracts
- Recommendations on the forthcoming Infrastructure Protection Services (IPS) contract
- Recommendations for a Transit Ambassador program framework
- Recommendations on the Home At Last (HAL) short-term shelter program for unhoused riders

IV. General Public Comment

Public comment was taken from meeting participants.

- a. There was one request for public comment, but participants were unable to hear the commentor's audio after several attempts.

V. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

VI. Next Steps

- a. The committee will reconvene on 02/16/22.