



# PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

## **Public Safety Commission Meeting - 03/20/2025**

Public Safety Commission Meeting - 03/20/2025 - Started at 6:05 pm

### **I. Roll Call**

Commissioner James Doyle - Present

Vice Chair Rev. Billy Burris - Present

Commissioner Anna Morshedi - Present

Chair Johnny Gilbert, Jr. - Present

Secretary Zeorneé Herts - Present

Commissioner Kambrei Charles - Present

Commissioner Kate Moffitt -

Commissioner Conner Thompson -Present

### **II. Opening Comments**

#### **a. Public Safety Commissioners**

- Commissioner Charles - Statement from the Mayor during the State of the City address. Will research Louisiana and intervention programs. Mentioned different categories to research based on what other cities have done:
  - Exploring evidence-based violence prevention strategies.
  - Strengthening community-led crime prevention initiatives.
  - Improving coordination between public safety agencies and community stakeholders.
  - Data-driven approaches to crime reduction.

So those are the kind of areas that we're recommending for the commission to really kind of focus on when we all are having these discussions.

- Commissioner Morshedi -

- Recommendation on start of meetings - Reading the goals or reminder of why we are here.
- Dawn Jeffries - Whetstone Boys and Girls club - path from Wakefield school to club is through wooded area and hidden and can be flooded. Solutions - Possibly a bus? Ms. Lewis. Maybe the Commission can write a letter to suggest a bus to make this safer. \*Partner with Street Team to reinforce the weight of the suggestion.
- June 6 is national gun violence awareness day - wear orange (Pendleton in Chicago) - Proclamation from the Mayor.

**b. Staff Liaison** – Christopher Harvey, Senior Advisor to the Mayor

- Mr. Harvey - Reminder about position elections tonight

On behalf of Chief Helton - LRPD hosting different events and commissioners are more than welcome and encouraged to attend when available.

**c. Department Liaison** – Lynette Perez, Chief Deputy City Attorney

- Mrs. Perez - Legislature has been in session; Monitoring executive orders and how the possibility of cutting grants and other funding and how it will affect local government and communities:
- Bills are being proposed that would limit city regulation of short-term rentals and land use.
- A bill may eliminate local government DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) offices.
- Concerns raised regarding municipal IDs, particularly around public safety implications.

Legal staff are monitoring these developments closely and may respond with litigation if federal funding or city governance is negatively affected.

- Commissioner Thompson asked about Municipal IDs.
- Commissioner Burris asked about the short-term rental issues. Ward 3. Trying to eliminate oversight.

**d. Department Liaison** – Chief Helton, LRPD Chief of Police - not present

**III. Citizen Communication** - none present

- a. Limited to three (3) minutes per person, with a maximum of 21 minutes allowed.

*i. No more than seven (7) speakers total.*

#### **IV. Old Business**

- a. Adoption of previous meeting minutes - Comm. Morshedi I motion - Comm. Burris  
| 2nd. Unanimously accepted.

#### **V. New Business**

- a. Election of 2025 – 2026 Commission Officers

i. Chair - Gilbert - James Doyle/Charles

ii. Vice Chair - Burris - Herts/Doyle

iii. Secretary - Herts - Morshedi/Gilbert

- b. City of Little Rock Street Team Update - William Farmer and William Graves  
(Uncle Willie) presented a robust update on street team activities:

Dept of Community Programs | Out in the neighborhoods weekly in different  
places

1e - Goodfellas Barber College - Job Fair Saturday - 5:30-7:30pm

- The team is part of the Department of Community Programs.
- Activities include: engaging communities at local stores, distributing brochures, attending neighborhood events, and addressing safety concerns directly on the ground.
- Recent events: Community meetups and preparation for a March 30 job fair event for ages 18–30.
- Street team focuses on relationship-building, providing resources, and violence interruption.
- Emphasis placed on not visibly collaborating with police in the field to maintain trust.
- Team shared personal testimonies about their impact and relationships with youth.

Commissioners commended their efforts and discussed partnering on the letter regarding the school safety concern. The commission and street team will co-author the letter.

Commissioner Thompson - how can we show the impact of groups like the street team and the work they are doing? How do things fit together budget-wise that make effective progress in the community?

Commissioner Charles - reason for suggesting the survey and have groups like the street team ask those they encounter what can be done to reduce crime.

Mr. Harvey - Commissioners can start doing more research and finding some strategic ways to combat issues.

Adjournment - 7:20 pm - Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously accepted.