



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Public Safety Commission Meeting 07/17/25

Transcript

The Public Safety Commission discussed several key issues, including the need for a youth violence reduction strategy. They noted a recent shooting in Hanger Hill involving a 14-year-old with a gun and the importance of parental responsibility in firearm safety. The commission decided to form a subcommittee to focus on youth violence prevention, aiming to gather data and develop recommendations by August. They also discussed the impact of curfew changes, with the youngest citation issued to an 11-year-old, and the potential for extended community center hours. The meeting concluded with a motion to adjourn until the next session.

Action Items

- [] @Lynette Perez - Obtain detailed data from the police department and juvenile court on the recent juvenile crimes, including demographics, charges, and any patterns.
- [] @Lynette Perez - Invite representatives from the Community Programs department and the Prosecutor's Office to the next meeting to provide on-the-ground perspectives.
- [] Explore the possibility of forming subcommittees to focus on specific issues, such as firearm safety campaigns and summer youth employment programs, and report back at the next meeting.
- [] Consider adjusting the reporting frequency of the commission to the city board, potentially moving to a quarterly or biannual schedule.

Outline

Roll Call and Meeting Introduction

- Lynette Perez conducts roll call, noting the absence of Commissioners Thompson, Fowler, Herts, and Lopez.
- The meeting begins with a reminder of the Public Safety Commission's goals, including reducing crime and improving relationships between law enforcement and communities.
- Speaker 2 brings up two items: an invitation from Miss Tolbert of the Arkansas Community Dispute Resolution Centers and the timing of the meetings.

- Discussion on the timing of meetings, with some commissioners suggesting a change to accommodate their schedules better.

Discussion on Meeting Timing and Public Participation

- Speaker 2 and Speaker 3 discuss the challenges of meeting on Thursday evenings, especially for those with day jobs.
- Lynette Perez mentions that different city commissions meet at various times, and staff can adjust accordingly.
- Speaker 5 suggests that evening meetings are better for public participation, while Speaker 1 notes that the current time was chosen to accommodate speakers.
- The group debates the impact of changing the meeting time on public attendance and commissioners' availability.

Proposal to Change Meeting Day to Fourth Thursday

- Speaker 4 suggests moving the meeting to the fourth Thursday of the month to avoid conflicts with other events.
- Lynette Perez notes that the current meeting schedule has been in place for a while and asks if there is a motion to change it.
- A motion is made to move the meetings to the fourth Thursday of the month, except for November and December, which will remain on the third Thursday.
- The motion is seconded and passed, with a few concerns about the impact on the holiday schedule.

Update on Public Safety Issues and Crime Statistics

- Lynette Perez provides an update on recent crime incidents, including a shooting in the Hanger Hill area and multiple homicides.
- Discussion on the increase in juvenile crimes and the need for stricter curfew enforcement.
- The group discusses the impact of social media on youth gatherings and the need for better parental supervision.
- Lynette Perez mentions a new curfew ordinance that has been passed, reducing the curfew for minors from midnight to 10 PM.

Youth Violence Prevention and Community Engagement

- Speaker 2 suggests starting a campaign to educate the public about firearm storage and youth job opportunities.
- Lynette Perez mentions the importance of community centers staying open later to provide safe spaces for youth.
- Speaker 1 and Speaker 3 discuss the role of parents and community in preventing youth violence.

- The group considers the idea of forming subcommittees to focus on specific issues, such as youth violence prevention.

Formation of Subcommittee on Youth Violence Prevention

- A motion is made to create a subcommittee focused on youth violence prevention and reduction.
- The subcommittee will meet between now and the next full meeting to gather data and develop recommendations.
- The group discusses the importance of having data-driven recommendations and the need for collaboration with other city departments.
- Lynette Perez offers to assist in scheduling and facilitating the subcommittee meetings.

Final Discussions and Adjournment

- The group discusses the importance of having well-prepared recommendations to present to the board.
- Lynette Perez suggests inviting key stakeholders, such as community programs and the prosecutor's office, to the next meeting to provide additional insights.
- The meeting adjourns with a plan to reconvene in August with more data and recommendations.