



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Public Safety Commission Meeting - 01/16/2025

Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 PM

1. Roll Call

Roll Call (voice roll call led by Staff Liaison Christopher Harvey in the absence of Secretary Zeornee Herts)

Commissioner Carolyn Hobbs - Present
Commissioner James Doyle - Present
Vice Chair Rev. Billy Burris - Present
Commissioner Anna Morshedi - Not Present
Chair Johnny Gilbert, Jr. - Not Present
Secretary Zeorneé Herts - Not Present
Commissioner Kambrei Charles - Present
Commissioner Kate Moffitt - Present
Commissioner Conner Thompson - Present

Quorum is met

2. Opening Comments - Public Safety Commissioners

- Commissioner Hobbs mentioned that she hasn't been in attendance because her father has passed away.
- Commissioner Doyle felt like we were putting the cart before the horse by trying to form a new subcommittee. He wants the subcommittee defined carefully.

Staff Liaison - Christopher Harvey - Reminded Commissioners who must reapply for the Public Safety Commission to reapply online by Friday, January 24th. Asked the chair to

LR Chief Deputy Atty Lynette Perez - Gave a summary of her "no knock" trial at the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Chief Helton - Not present

3. Citizen Communications - This portion of the meeting focused heavily on community concerns about using surveillance technologies by the Little Rock Police Department (LRPD), particularly license plate readers, ShotSpotter, and Axon Fuses real-time crime center technologies. The public testimony revealed significant distrust of the city's approach to public safety and emphasized the need for greater transparency, accountability, and community control. The following resident offered comments on the summary above.

Considering work schedules, a motion was made to extend the time for people to come in and speak. Motion made by Commissioner Hobbs. Seconded by Commissioner Doyle. The motion passed.

Resident #1: Charles Wilson

- Speaking against shotspotter use by LRPD.
- Spoke about the lack of transparency with the real-time crime center and Shot Spotter, arguing they are tools of crime response rather than prevention. He criticized using funds for contracts with these technologies and expressed concerns about the lack of transparency and access to information.

Resident #2: Dawn Jeffrey

- Speaking against “No knock” warrants and shotspotter.
- Criticized the defense of no-knock warrants, referencing the deaths of Breonna Taylor and others. Jeffrey urged the commission to reject the Shot Spotter contract and invest in community safety measures. Jeffrey also demanded transparency from the city and police.

Resident #3: Amy Pritchard

- Speaking against the Real-Time Crime Center and wants more transparency.
- Discussed the policies and procedures surrounding the real-time crime center and the data being collected. She expressed concern about an email from Miss Perez stating that the commission had decided no further review or analysis was needed on the real-time crime center and its policies and procedures. She requested clarification from the board regarding this matter and asked for action on Shot Spotter.

Resident #4: Shawn Woods

- Speaking against shotspotter
- Expressed concerns about Shot Spotter being concentrated in predominantly Black and Hispanic areas and the dangers of no-knock warrants.

4. Old Business

- Adoption of Minutes for the December 2024 meeting will be adopted at next month's meeting for February 2025.

5. New Business

Commissioner Thompson's motion to create a special committee to analyze the real-time crime center's policies, comprised of a subcommittee of private citizens with expertise, was discussed.

- Commissioner Thompson clarified that the special committee would address community concerns and consider potential ordinances for police surveillance technology.
- A discussion ensued regarding the scope and purpose of the special committee, with concerns raised about limiting its focus.
- Mr. Harvey suggested names and purposes for the special committee and subcommittee
 - Special Committee: Special Committee on Real-Time Crime Center Operations and Public Safety Innovation.
 - Subcommittee: Subcommittee on Crime Data Integration and Operational Insights.
- Ultimately, a motion was made and seconded to establish the special committee and subcommittee for reviewing the Real-Time Crime Center.
 - Commissioner Thompson suggests the creation of a new subcommittee.
 - Commissioner Thompson motioned to make a new special committee.
 - Commissioner Hobbs seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed.
- The commission discussed how to determine the special committee members, including opening up applications to the public. It was decided to put a form on the Public Safety Commission webpage for interested individuals to sign up.

The Public Safety Commission discussed the ineffectiveness of Shot Spotter and the over-policing it allegedly caused.

- A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the city board of directors to remove Shot Spotter from the consent agenda when it is brought up for contract renewal, for the purpose of public debate.
- Commissioner Thompson made the Public Safety Commission motion to communicate with the City Board of Directors to remove the Shot Spotter ordinance from the consent agenda to the public agenda. Commissioner Mofitt seconds. Motion passes.

6. Motion to adjourn

Commissioner Charles moved. Commissioner Morshedi made the second. All were in favor.