



# PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

## Public Safety Commission Meeting - 02/20/2025

Public Safety Commission Meeting - 02/20/2025 - Started at 7:16 pm

### 1. Roll Call

Commissioner Carolyn Hobbs - Not Re-applying

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 - Present

Commissioner Conner Thompson -Present

Before beginning the business at hand, Mr. Harvey addressed the group about previous issues with decorum in December and January meetings. He apologized to the commissioners for interruptions at previous meetings that were out of order by those in attendance. interruptions, including guests speaking out of turn and commissioners being shouted over. This will not be allowed moving forward. Public comments will follow the established process, which includes filling out speaker request cards before the meeting begins.

### 2. Opening Comments

a. **Public Safety Commissioners** - Commissioner Thompson; Commissioner Moffitt; Commissioner Morshedi; Commissioner Burris

Commissioner Thompson sought an an update on the application form for the public to join the Real-Time Crime Center subcommittee. He also requested clarification on Item C under New Business regarding the Real-Time Crime Center educational initiatives. He wanted to propose tabling this discussion until we form the subcommittee.

He also wanted to make a motion that discussion regarding ShotSpotter at the city board level be removed from the consent agenda and treated as a separate item, allowing public input. This was tabled for later discussion in the meeting.

Commissioner Moffitt wanted to highlight that many public safety concerns stem from infrastructure issues, such as inadequate street lighting, sidewalks, and traffic signals. Addressing these concerns should be a priority.

Commissioner Morshedi expressed support for a holistic approach to public safety but believes we should first define our goals before engaging external organizations. Little Rock already has numerous community initiatives in place.

Commissioner Burris wants to see the commission focus on collaboration rather than division. Our role is to support and work with all public safety entities.

Chairman Gilbert put the motions from Commissioner Thompson up for vote as follows: Commissioner Thompson has made two motions:

- a. To strike Item C (Real-Time Crime Center educational initiatives) from today's agenda until the special committee is formed. Motion 1: No second, motion failed.
- b. To request that the city board move any ShotSpotter discussion from the consent agenda to a separate item.

Commissioner Doyle asked if we know if ShotSpotter would even be placed on the consent agenda? If not, this motion may not be necessary.

Chairman Gilbert then suggested tabling this motion until we verify whether ShotSpotter is indeed on the consent agenda.

Motion 2 was tabled.

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

Mr. Harvey asked the commissioners to consider rescinding the motion to form a subcommittee on the Real-Time Crime Center. There are five open positions on this commission, and he said it makes more sense to focus on filling those rather than creating additional committees. Commissioner Gilbert made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Burris. Motion passed, with Commissioner Thompson as the only no vote.

**c. Department Liaison** – Cody Pritchard, Deputy City Attorney

**d. Department Liaison** – Chief Helton, LRPD Chief of Police

1. Citizen Communication Limited to three (3) minutes per person, with a maximum of 21 minutes allowed. No more than seven (7) speakers total.
  1. There was discussion as to how to allow for public comments since the meeting was being held virtually and there was not an established process for submitting cards to speak. It was concluded that the use of the hand raised featured in the virtual platform would be used as it provided a numbering system of which hand was raised first and up to seven comments would be allowed at 3 minutes each.
    1. **Amy Pritchard:** There is a lack of transparency regarding the Real-Time Crime Center. Residents have concerns about data collection, storage,

and surveillance practices. The city board directed us here for this discussion, yet we are not getting answers.

2. **Dawn Jeffrey:** Raised concerns about children's safety in Southwest Little Rock and infrastructure needs. Also expressed concern about past meeting decorum.
3. **Wren ?:** Expressed frustration over accusations of an "agenda" against the police. Citizens are raising legitimate concerns about surveillance and ShotSpotter.
4. **Tristan H.:** Asked for clarification on whether this commission's role is to support all police initiatives or to review broader public safety concerns.
5. **Charlie Wilson:** Noted concerns about ShotSpotter's effectiveness and the lack of transparency in the city's surveillance initiatives.

## 2. Old Business Adoption of previous meeting minutes

1. Commissioner Morshedi had 2 corrections to the January minutes. She was not in attendance and there is a sentence that looks to be incomplete that needs to be updated. She then moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Herts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## 3. New Business

1. 21st Century Policing Division Presentation - Major John Lott and Lt. Michael Ford gave a brief presentation on the division and its components. There are currently 25 officers assigned, division was established in 2021 to implement best practices outlined in the Task Force on 21st Century Policing report. We focus on six key pillars, including trust-building, policy oversight, technology use, and officer wellness. Programs like Gems (for girls), SOS (Saving Our Sons), and School Resource Officers focus on building community with youth around the city. Commissioner Charles asked they could provide materials on officer safety and community engagement that would be shareable in his Ward (6). Major Lott will provide that information through Mr. Harvey.
2. City of Little Rock Street Team Update - Mr. Farmer was not available at this point in the agenda to provide information on the team for an update.
3. Real-Time Crime Center Educational Initiatives - Mr. Harvey suggested to the commissioners that in order to be more informed about the center as the commission makes recommendations, that members of the commission visit the center to see it in action. Commissioner Thompson suggested that commissioners review reports about programs like the center to learn more. Commissioner Herts also suggested that members use visits to the center as part of their research to have in-person experience with how the center works in addition to any outside sources in order to make a well-rounded opinion about the center and its usefulness in reducing crime in the city. Commissioner Doyle agreed that visiting the center firsthand is essential.

4. Adjournment - 8:44pm - Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously accepted.