



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
www.cityofmadison.com

## Meeting Minutes - Draft PUBLIC SAFETY REVIEW COMMITTEE

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Tuesday, March 8, 2011

5:00 PM

City of Madison Police Department  
211 South Carroll Street  
Room Gr-22 (City-County Building)  
Central Community Room

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 8 -

Paul E. Skidmore; Christopher P. Klein; Tyrone W. Bell; Michael S. Scott;  
Maurice S. Cheeks; Chan M. Stroman; Steve King and Matthew J. Phair

**Absent:** 1 -

Bryon A. Eagon

**Excused:** 1 -

Bret M. Gundlach

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alder Skidmore made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 8, 2011. Chan Stroman seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. [21402](#) Creating Secs. 12.76(5), (6), and (7) and Sec. 12.79(8) and amending Sec. 1.08(3)(a) of the Madison General Ordinances to regulate bicycle traffic through bicycle-specific traffic control signals and to establish a bail deposit for violations.

A motion was made by Alder Paul Skidmore for approval for the purpose of discussion, seconded by Alder King.

Alder Skidmore who is a sponsor of the ordinance on the new pedestrian/bicycle activated signals said he feels the new signal system is a good idea, but he had questions on whether there would be an impact on the Police Department monitoring people not observing the signals. His suggestion would be pro-active enforcement and a change in behavior by people to obey the signals.

Arthur Ross from Traffic Enforcement shared the background with the group on the new pedestrian and bicyclist hybrid beacon where he said the first one has already been installed and in use at North Blair and East Mifflin intersection. The new traffic control beacon is intended to make crossing at an intersection safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. He said that there would be a fine associated when there is violation, but that there will be no additional enforcement or revenue. Traffic Engineering is looking to install the new signals at various locations throughout the City of Madison over the next year or two where there would be a half dozen to a dozen installed around the City. There is information about the new traffic signals on the City of Madison website under Traffic Engineering. There has already been media coverage and a press conference on the new signals, but there would be additional coverage in the Spring to make people aware as the weather starts warming up.

The group voted unanimously in favor of approving item number 21402. The motion carries.

## PRESENTATION

2. [21630](#)

Problem Hotels

Captain Joe Balles from the Madison Police Department (South District)

Captain Balles from the Madison Police Department briefed the group on a hotel in his district called the Expo Inn, located at 910 Ann Street. He said the hotel has been problematic to the South District where over the years police have been dispatched for several disturbances and drug incidents. He mentioned that the hotel has approximately 90 rooms and operates at a seventy-percent capacity with some of the rooms rented as extended stay living with the average cost per night between 22-26 dollars. In 2008, the hotel was served its first drug nuisance abatement letter when a Sergeant and Police Officer from the Community Policing Team engaged the hotel owner with problem solving efforts to assist in correcting behaviors taking place at the hotel. However, Captain Balles said that the hotel continued to have several calls for service when in late 2009 the second nuisance abatement letter was sent. Problems only continued and in 2010 the hotel had three death investigations in a three month time span. Two of the deaths were a result of drug overdoses and the third was a suicide. He said this is when the City of Madison Building Inspection became involved with inspecting every room and noting where repairs in the hotel needed to be made. Captain Balles said that the Police Department has been involved with monitoring the hotel were about a dozen of arrests were made after doing surveillance outside the hotel. After the arrests were made he said that the owner of the hotel was contacted with the potential of charging the hotel as a drug dwelling. As to date there have been about 30 calls this year to the hotel. He said that the Police Department continues to work with the owner of the hotel but given the continual problems he has submitted over a thousand pages of information to the City Attorney's Office where the property is now a declaration of a chronic nuisance premise.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

3. [21632](#)

Report from the 911 Center Committee - Alder Paul Skidmore

Alder Skidmore who serves on the 911 Center Board shared that Dane County has chosen to break their contract with the City and sign a fifteen-million contract with Harris Corporation, a private contractor for the operations and maintenance with the interoperable radio system. He mentioned that the City has previously held the contract with Dane County servicing the radios for over forty years. He said that there will be another meeting in two weeks.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chair Mike Scott mentioned to the group that there are a few members, including himself whose term for the committee expires in April. In addition he mentioned Tyrone Bell who is the Vice-Chair of the committee and a few Alders whose term expires and are also up for re-election through the City. Given this he said that there would elections taking place at the April meeting. If your term is up and you still want to continue as a committee member you should contact the Mayor's Office.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Tyrone Bell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Matt Phair seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:20p.m.