



# Louisville Metro Government

## Action Summary - Tentative Public Safety Committee

*Chair Mark H. Fox (D-13)*

*Vice Chair James Peden (R-23)*

*Committee Member Angela Bowens (D-1)*

*Committee Member Barbara Shanklin (D-2)*

*Committee Member Paula McCraney (D-7)*

*Committee Member Marilyn Parker (R-18)*

*Committee Member Madonna Flood (D-24)*

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Wednesday, April 20, 2022

3:30 PM

Council Chambers/Virtual

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**THIS MEETING IS BEING HELD VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE**

### Call to Order

Chair Person Fox called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

### Roll Call

Chair Person Fox introduced the committee members and non-committee members present. A quorum was established.

**\*NOTE: All committee members and non-committee members present attended virtually, except Chair Person Fox, Vice Chair Peden, Council President James, and Council Member Triplett, who attended in Chambers.**

**Present:** 7 - Committee Member Angela Bowens (D-1), Committee Member Barbara Shanklin (D-2), Committee Member Paula McCraney (D-7), Chair Mark H. Fox (D-13), Committee Member Marilyn Parker (R-18), Vice Chair James Peden (R-23), and Committee Member Madonna Flood (D-24)

### Non-Committee Member(s)

Council President David James (D-6) and Council Member Kevin Triplett (D-15)

### Clerk(s)

Lisa Franklin Gray, Assistant Clerk  
Sonya Harward, Clerk

## Special Discussion

1. [ID 22-0562](#)

**SPECIAL DISCUSSION: CORRECTIONS UPDATE  
- DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS, LOUISVILLE METRO DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTIONS**

Chair Person Fox introduced Director Jerry Collins, Louisville Metro Department of Corrections ("LMDC"). Director Collins gave a status update on LMDC operations to date.

The following also spoke to this item:

- Chair Person Fox
- Council President James
- Vice Chair Peden
- Committee Member McCraney
- Council Member Triplett

The following was discussed:

- There were several remarks commending Director Collins for wearing his uniform as it bolsters LMDC officers' morale.
- There were several questions regarding the current status of needed equipment for the LMDC officers.
- There was a discussion regarding efforts to more stringently monitor and confiscate all contraband found in the LMDC facilities.
- There was a discussion detailing the amount of contraband seized to date in the LMDC facilities.
- The upcoming LMDC budget will allocate funds to purchase an ample amount of body scanners, safety sheers, flash lights, and phones.
- LMDC has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to receive quotes on purchasing protective vests and digital phones for each officer.
- The safety sheers allow an officer to intervene in possible suicide attempts.
- There was a discussion regarding reciprocal communication between the Metro Council and LMDC so the department has what is needed.
- There was a discussion regarding officer safety and inmate safety.
- There were several questions regarding current leadership changes.
- There were several questions regarding leadership plans going forward.
- There was a discussion regarding changes within top leadership staff.
- There was a discussion regarding building relationships and a foundation between LMDC, the community, LMDC officers, and the Metro Council.
- There were several questions regarding retention of leadership staff from the previous administration.
- There was a discussion about creating a new vision and mission within LMDC, which includes community and department input.
- There were several questions regarding the departure of former staff members Deputy Director Steve Durham, Offender Services Manager Martin Baker, and Deputy Director Eric Troutman.
- There were several questions regarding recruiting and retention plans for LMDC officers going forward.
- There was a discussion regarding recruiting campaigns for former military and expanding marketing to other counties and mediums.

- There were several questions regarding whether LMDC will include monies for recruitment in its FY23 budget.
- There were several questions regarding any vacancies in the LMDC leadership staff.
- The vacancies in LMDC leadership staff has been filled.
- There were several questions regarding the impending Metro Council investigation of the previous practices of the LMDC and whether the current leadership will be cooperative.
- There was a discussion regarding transparency in LMDC going forward.
- There were several questions regarding addressing morale challenges with LMDC officers.
- LMDC has launched an officer wellness and officer response team to address traumatic events.
- This is a support tool to address the mental health of all LMDC officers and create a network of support.
- There was a discussion regarding current and future changes within the LMDC such as removal of officer stations and repainting the interior to create a better work environment for all.
- There was a discussion regarding the key of leadership is building relationships and creating a network and foundation of support.
- This affords LMDC officers a voice and involvement in daily operations, scheduling, and a work-life balance.
- There were several questions regarding the status of LMDC canine unit.
- The canine handlers have been selected and scheduled for training so the expected launch of the program will be early to mid-June.
- There was a discussion regarding the necessary steps to create a happy work environment and workforce going forward, which will improve LMDC officers morale.
- There were several questions regarding lessons learned throughout Director Collins' career.
- The ability to develop leaders, create relationships, and the ability to better communicate is a vital part of becoming an effective leader.
- There were several questions regarding the current role of former Chief Amy Hess and Assistant Public Services Chief, Ron Heady.
- Former Chief Hess is assisting with development of LMDC officer training plans and Assistant Public Services Chief Heady is conducting an analysis on the facility and its operations.
- There were several questions regarding whether a recent evaluation of LMDC's contracted medical services has been completed.
- There were several questions regarding how LMDC's contracted medical services staff performed during the recent inmate deaths.
- LMDC launched a mental health evaluation this week.
- There was a discussion regarding the increase of market level wages and additional medical staff to improve contracted medical services.
- There were several questions regarding whether all Louisville Metro public service departments are able to communicate on the same radio channels.

## Adjournment

Without objection, Chair Person Fox adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.