

Captioning Transcript of Public Safety Committee
Meeting - November 2, 2022

"Fox, Mark"

Good afternoon and welcome to the November 2nd, 2022 regular meeting of the Louisville Metro Council's Public Safety committee. This meeting is being held in accordance with KRS 61.826 and council rule 5A, I'm Mark, Fox, chairman of the committee, and we're joined today by my vice chair in chambers James Peden. We're joined virtually by councilman Angela Bowens, councilwoman Dr. Barbara Shanklin, councilwoman Paula McCraney Council woman Madonna Flood, council woman Parker will be joining us shortly. Our 1st item, actually, our only item is a resolution, it's R-162-22 a resolution authorizing the mayor to make application for and on approval to enter into an agreement with the Kentucky office of homeland.

Kentucky office of homeland security to execute any documents, which are deemed necessary by to facilitate and minister the project and to act as the authorized correspondent for this project in the amount of \$1,072,341 dollars. For the purchase of ballistic rifle plates to be administered by the Louisville metro police department,

"Peden, James"

Move approval Peden.

"Flood, Madonna"

Second, Flood.

"Fox, Mark"

Moved by Peden, seconded by Flood. The item is now before us and I believe Todd Richardson with the LMPD is here to speak to this so, sir, if you would please introduce yourself for the record and

"Peden, James"

Mr. Chair? Before he comes down and starts ballistic rifle plates, fancy word for bulletproof vest?

"Fox, Mark"

Fancy word for bulletproof vests are actually the inserts thereof. Okay? Officer ,please introduce so for the record the floor is yours sir.

"Richardson, Todd"

Thank you. Officer Todd Richardson with Louisville metro police department. I'm the health and safety officer for the department

also act as the safety director for LMPD so we're a lot of hats into that. I'm just going to hear talking about the ballistic armor that we're, we're seeking. Appreciate you all help me out here today to talk to you on the councilman Peden, you were asking about the armor what this is it's actually the rightful place so our ballistic armor is only rated for pistol rounds the soft body armor that we wear is pistol rated. It's not rifle rated whenever we do an active shooter or something of that nature that's when we utilize the rifle plates currently we have the rifle plates that we have they're coming on, they're going to be expiring next year and 2023. they have a 5 year shelf life. They were originally purchase for us through the foundation it was a gift that was given to police since we were lacking in that ability to have rifle protection for our officers other than of course, you know, are specializing in squatter or other things like that that had those rifle place, but for the everyday officer, we didn't have that those were given to us, like I said, it's coming up on our 5 year, mark. With those expiring, part of my thing is that I need to look for avenues to try to pay for those as you can see it's a large expense for if we were to replace the place that we have with the exact same plate, it would be around 1.6 Million dollars. What I'm trying to do is find these plates are called ICW plates or in conjunction with plates. They work in conjunction with our soft body armor officers would be able to wear these with or soft body armor every day during patrol, for an example, just to let, you know, the rifle plates that we currently have for our active shooter kits both of them together there's 2 front and back. They way around 16 pounds for 2 of them and then we also have to put that on so, for an active shooter, active aggressor or something at a school, or something like that we have to take the time to put them on. And then to respond if we're able to go to this new system officers. We've been wearing them, they wait 2.2 pounds each so we're looking at 4.4 pounds and have the same rifle protection that the standalone plates have, but they'll be able to wear them all the time so, this will increase the time that they're able to take action to go in and stop the activity and stop the activity and start rendering aid. So, that's why we're seeking them. And then also, with the advent of, as I'm sure you're aware is, if you just watch the news that a lot of the pistols and stuff that we're taking off of people nowadays are rifle rated they have a 15 pistols they are considered a pistol, but they have a rifle round in our current vest that you wear every day on the street does not stop that. So, that's why I'm seeking to try and get this. I found this grant to put in for to help to try and offset that cost and that's why I applied for it.

"Fox, Mark"

Thank you officer Richardson. Let me check my electronic cue. Okay, nothing there councilman, vice chair Peden.

"Peden, James"

Really quick. You were saying that pistol rounds are now rated as rifle shells. Is that simply because of the size and number of grains?

"Richardson, Todd"

Basically, it's, it's a rifle round. You have 9 millimeter, you have your pistol rounds, 9 millimeter, 40, 45, 38 you know, those are pistol rounds a rifle rounds such as a, you know, if you're familiar with rifle around some large around more power, more powerful plates.

"Peden, James"

So more gunpowder, therefore, more distance.

"Richardson, Todd"

Correct, larger cartridge and things like that. So. like that so you know, they move faster and they're able to penetrate our best that we currently have. That's why we need the ballistic protection of the rifle plates.

"Peden, James"

Is that being sold commercially, or is that modified?

"Richardson, Todd"

For the rifle plates?

"Peden, James"

No, for the enhanced shells.

"Richardson, Todd"

It doesn't mean anything has to be enhanced you can go to Academy sports and get any rifle around a rifle.

"Peden, James"

No, no, no but I guess, I guess I always pictured a pistol isn't big enough to hold a rifle round. That's what I'm asking now.

"Richardson, Todd"

Now you have AR-15, you have pistol you have different due to ATF regulations and stuff you can actually have it looks exactly like an HR, 15, except it has a fixable the stock has either an

arm brace it's made in theory you're not supposed to check it's being able to fire just like this as a pistol. So it's got a shorter barrel it's basically a shortened AR-15 that is considered a pistol by federal law, and you can purchase it and as long as you utilize it as a pistol, a single fire pistol and it is a pistol, even though it fires a rifle round. So, it's still, it's, it's basically a short barrel rifle frontiers of purposes. However, the way that you utilize it by, by the law, it makes it a pistol.

"Fox, Mark"

Thank you, Councilwoman Flood.

"Flood, Madonna"

Thank you, Mr. chair. I just wanted to say, thank you for being proactive on this because I have seen a lot of these stories about these type of guns, and I was wondering what we were going to do about it. So, I want to thank you for being proactive and something unfortunate not happening to someone a member of LMPD. So thank you very much for being proactive on this.

"Fox, Mark"

Thank you councilwoman we have no one, left in our queue. To Officer Richardson, thank you for your service to our community to Todd, it was monitored to have served with you, sir. Thank you sir. This is a resolution calling for a voice vote, all in favor say, aye. Opposed?

The ayes have it, the motion passes and will go to the consent calendar. Any further business for the public safety committee? Seeing, none have a motion to adjourn? Thank you. So, moved the Committee's adjourned, thank you.