



**Public Safety Committee  
Meeting of June 8, 2009**

**Minutes**

Members present: Douglas Athas, Council Member – District 1, Committee Chairman  
Preston Edwards, Council Member – District 3  
John Willis, Council Member – District 5  
Rick Williams, Council Member – District 7

Other Council: Laura Cox, Council Member – District 2  
Darren Lathen, Council Member – District 8

Staff present: Mitch Bates, Chief of Police, Staff Liaison to PSC  
Mike Betz, Deputy City Attorney  
Lonnie Banks, Managing Director - Environmental Waste Services  
Richard Briley, Managing Director - Code Compliance & Health  
Steve Killen, Director – Code Compliance

Other(s): Michael Gothard, Dallas County Constable – Precinct 2

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Chairman Douglas Athas called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting held on February 2, 2009, were approved unanimously.

Item #1: Review of Home Eviction Process and Possible Recommendations to Council

Dallas County Constable Michael Gothard (Precinct 2) discussed the civil home eviction process in which his office enforces a court order to remove the remaining property of a former tenant from a residence after the eviction proceedings are filed by the landlord. Constable Gothard advised that his office must comply with the court order and comply with the Texas Property Code (specifically Chapters 24 and 71) in regard to the disposition of such property.

Lonnie Banks, Managing Director of Environmental Waste Services (EWS), advised that the City does have large containers (approximately 33 square yards) which could be utilized to hold the property at the location (as required by state law) upon request of the landlord.

It would then be possible for the members of the Constables Office to place the property removed from the residence into such a large container which may then reduce the problems associated with the disposition of the property (e.g. – unauthorized removal by other persons, trash, etc.). Then, upon request of the landlord, EWS could then remove the container to the landfill if not claimed by the former tenant or landlord within a specific time period.

Constable Gothard advised that his office could coordinate such civil home evictions with Garland EWS and Code Compliance personnel.

Mike Betz, Deputy City Attorney, advised that specific language would be necessary to clarify the use of the container under these circumstances including a revision/addition to city ordinance. Betz advised that a draft of the specific language necessary could be provided for review at the next Council Work Session on Monday, June 15.

Future Agenda Items

1. Approval of minutes
2. The next meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
Mitch Bates, Staff Liaison to PSC  
Chief of Police

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Jeffus, Chairman  
Council Member – District 4