

**Phoenix City Council
Public Safety and Justice (PSJ) Subcommittee
Summary Minutes
Wednesday, April 1, 2026**

City Council Chambers
200 W. Jefferson St.
Phoenix, Arizona

Subcommittee Members Present

Councilman Kevin Robinson, Chair
Councilwoman Ann O'Brien
Councilman Jim Waring
Councilmember Betty Guardado

Subcommittee Members Absent

CALL TO ORDER

Councilman Robinson called the Public Safety and Justice Subcommittee (PSJ) to order at 10:04 a.m. with Councilwoman O'Brien present. Councilman Waring and Councilwoman Guardado attended virtually.

Councilman Waring joined the meeting in person at 10:18 a.m.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Items on the agenda were called out of order.

2. Downtown Operations Unit Update

Police Department Assistant Chief Brian Lee Commander David Seitter presented on the item.

Councilwoman O'Brien noted the potential addition of another squad and asked whether this would result in 24/7 coverage within the year and if it related to the same type of squad.

Chief Lee stated the squad had been allotted eight positions but currently had only four filled full-time. He confirmed the intent to add four additional positions to reach the full allocation.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked if the additional positions would enhance coverage, including extended or improved 24/7 coverage or improved coverage during the specified hours.

Chief Lee stated if the squad were fully staffed with eight positions, it would provide 24-hour coverage; however, a few days each week would still lack coverage. He noted achieving full 24-hour, seven-day-a-week coverage would require adding a second shift Three Squad.

Councilwoman O'Brien noted the significant growth occurring in the downtown area and the resulting increased need for public safety resources. She stated appreciation for the unit's efforts to ensure 24/7 safety coverage.

Councilman Robinson stated that the unit had clearly identified what was best for the downtown area and highlighted positive feedback from visitors, including consistent courtesy and professionalism from officers. He added partners in the downtown area had expressed satisfaction with the unit's responsiveness and shared that, through service on the Visit Phoenix board, they regularly heard positive firsthand accounts.

3. Community Court Update

Office of Homeless Solutions Deputy Director Scott Hall, Office of Public Defender Director Ward, and Chief Assistant City Prosecutor Sarah DeJong presented on the item.

Councilwoman O'Brien noted the program had been in place for two years and asked whether staff collected additional data from participants who chose to opt out, in order to identify any gaps that might need to be addressed.

Mr. Hall noted that some people declined participation early because they wanted the quickest resolution.

Mr. Ward added that many clients, particularly those experiencing homelessness, were skeptical of the process and preferred to exit the system as quickly as possible. He noted that some individuals did not believe the services offered would materialize and were more comfortable returning to familiar routines, even if those circumstances were difficult. Mr. Ward also explained the program required ongoing commitments such as attending court, staying in contact with a case manager, and following service referrals, which some participants were unwilling to do, making the regular courtroom a simpler option for them.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked staff to elaborate on what occurred when individuals were returned to regular court for not meeting program expectations.

Ms. DeJong explained individuals who chose not to participate in Community Court were returned to a regular court division, where they received a standard offer based on their criminal history and case facts. She noted prosecutors and defense attorneys were familiar with the program, and individuals who initially declined could be eligible to return to Community Court in future cases when they were ready. She emphasized the importance of meeting participants where they were and educating all courthouse partners on available opportunities.

Councilwoman O'Brien expressed support for efforts to encourage participants to opt into Community Court, noting the benefits to both individuals and the community. Councilwoman O'Brien emphasized the importance of maintaining program standards to preserve its strong success rate and requested future tracking of three- and five-year outcomes.

Councilwoman Guardado highlighted the positive outcomes seen through collaboration between Community Court partners and the Office of Homeless Solutions. She expressed appreciation for the team's continued efforts and stated that their office was available to provide support as needed.

Councilman Robinson thanked the team for its hard work and expressed appreciation for the presentation.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

4. Minutes of the Public Safety and Justice Subcommittee Meeting

Councilman Waring made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2026 Public Safety and Justice Subcommittee meeting. Councilwoman O'Brien seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4-0.

INFORMATION ONLY

5. Laveen Tower Update

6. Fire Staffing and Response Time Report

Councilman Waring asked for an update on the new fire operations in District 2, noting a prior budget discussion on the topic and inquiring about the project's status and its anticipated launch by the end of the fiscal year.

Chief Kreis confirmed the Fire Department was working to secure additional facility space to add a 24-hour medical response vehicle at Station 45. The station currently housed an engine company, an ambulance company, and a brush truck, and that the engine company was technical-rescue capable. He stated that adding a 24-hour medical response unit was expected to have a positive impact on service in the area.

Councilman Waring asked whether staff could estimate the expected reduction in response times once the new medical response vehicle was added.

Chief Kreis stated he did not recall the response-time estimates but could consult Technical Services and provide a follow-up.

Councilman Waring inquired for an update on discussions with Mayo Clinic regarding the potential development of a new fire station on Mayo-owned property.

Chief Kreis reported the Fire Department was working with Community and Economic Development to pursue property in the area for the construction of Fire Station 71.

Councilman Waring concluded by stating his support for this effort and expressed a desire to see the matter resolved before the end of his term, noting he had approximately one year remaining.

7. Community Assistance Program (CAP) Expansion Implementation Report

8. Police Hiring, Recruitment and Attrition Monthly Update

CONSENT

1. Animal Ordinance Update

Councilman Waring made a motion to approve Item 1. Councilwoman O'Brien seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4-0.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Robinson adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dayana Rosas
Management Fellow