

The Board of Directors of the Emergency Communications District (ECD) of Nashville and Davidson County met in regular session at the Metro Emergency Communications Center, 2060 15th Avenue South. Chair Cleo Duckworth called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and presided over the meeting with the following board members present: Lorinda Hale, William Johnson, Ruby Baker, Bryan Pettus, and Dan Dwyer. Board members Carolyn Baldwin Tucker and Rick Cowan were not in attendance. Others who attended the meeting included: Mark Lynam (ECD Admin), Stephen Martini, Patrice Coleman, Paul McCallister, Jimmy Matthews, Leah Quarles, Adrienne Dillion, Kristin Mullen, Barbara Boske, & Deon Floyd (Metro DEC), Tiffany Childress (Finn Partners), Russell Freeman (Legal Counsel), Jessica Stewart (SEIU Representative), and Austin Hornbostel (Tennessean Newspaper).

Minutes

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 12, 2025 ECD board meeting. Ms. Hale seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by voice vote.

Financial Report

Mr. Lynam went over the July financial report with board members. Cash available for operations as of July 31st totaled \$36,194,265. This consisted of \$66,991 in the ECD's checking account and \$36,127,274 in its LGIP account.

Mr. Lynam went over the various financial transactions that took place during the month. He reported that income for July totaled \$130,007 while expenses amounted to \$139,970. This resulted in a net loss of \$9,963 for the month.

Ms. Hale made a motion to accept the financial statement as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by voice vote.

Public Awareness Update

Ms. Tiffany Childress went over the Rescue Rex report. She provided a schedule of upcoming shows which will be taking place at various schools. Her report also highlighted feedback from students and teachers. She also shared a "back to school" communication from Rex that was posted on social media.

Ms. Kimberly Nichols provided a media report for board members but was not in attendance to review it with them.

DEC Directors Report

Director Martini went over the monthly Director's Report with board members. His overview highlighted answer time compliance and call processing performance over the past five years. He noted that non-emergency answer time was down largely due to vacancies that were left unfilled to meet the mandated funding reduction that was mandated by Metro in fiscal year 2025.

Seven DEC employees presented programs at the APCO conference.

DEC's training section achieved APCO Agency Training Program Accreditation for having met or exceeded national public safety training standards.

DEC completed its four-year CALEA accreditation compliance review this summer and will receive its seventh CALEA accreditation certificate in November. This certificate confirms that DEC meets or exceeds the 208 standards and best practices put in place for public safety agencies.

Director Martini pointed out that there is a need to educate mental health clinicians on the work that public safety telecommunicators perform. Members of APCO, including Director Martini, have worked with NENA in developing a four-hour training course in which a clinician can gain a better understanding of a dispatcher's job and how it can affect their mental health. This program will benefit PSAP's across North America. Director Martini's goal is to partner with local mental health clinicians so that when someone from his department reaches out for help, there can be better engagement between employee and clinician on how to deal with traumatic and distressful events.

Statement of Support for Director Martini

As a result of the August 18th, 2025 letter issued by the Women's Caucus of the Metropolitan Council regarding the workplace culture of the Department of Emergency Communications, numerous board members felt that a formal statement should be issued in support of Director Martini's leadership. Several members of the board collaborated to compose a draft letter. The draft was then provided to each board member and read out loud at the meeting. Ms. Duckworth, Ms. Baker, and Ms. Hale all made verbal statements affirming support for Director Martini's leadership abilities. Ms. Duckworth asked if any changes should be made to the letter. The letter was approved without changes. In addition, DEC employee Ms. Kristin Mullen, read three letters written by current employees affirming their support for Director Martini.

Ms. Hale made a motion to accept the Board's letter as written and to make it public. Ms. Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 votes in favor (Duckworth, Baker, Hale, Johnson, Pettus), 0 against, and 1 abstention (Dwyer).

It was decided that the Board's letter, as well as the three employee letters, would be disseminated as a press release to the media. Ms. Baker would also hand-deliver a courtesy copy of the documents to the Mayor's Office.

Mr. Pettus asked if the Board could be provided with the results of the workplace culture survey that was conducted of current employees.

Adjournment

Upon proper motion by Ms. Hale and second by Ms. Baker, the meeting adjourned at 1:52 PM.

The next meeting of the ECD Board of Directors will be held on September 18, 2025 at 1:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Mark Lynam