

City of San Antonio



Minutes Public Safety Committee

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

9:30 AM

Municipal Plaza Building

Members Present: Melissa Cabello Havrda, *Chair*
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*
Phyllis Viagran, *Member*
Ana Sandoval, *Member*

Members Absent: Clayton Perry, *Member*

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from the Public Safety Committee meeting on January 18, 2022

Councilmember Sandoval moved to Approve the minutes from the Public Safety Committee meeting on January 18, 2022. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Cabello Havrda, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Sandoval

Absent: Perry

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. Briefing and possible action on the San Antonio Fire Department's various wellness programs available to firefighters. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; Charles N. Hood, Fire Chief]

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez introduced the Item and Fire Chief Charles Hood.

Chief Hood provided an overview of the San Antonio Fire Department's (SAFDs) various wellness

programs available to the City's Firefighters. Hood noted that a large portion of the wellness program was the Fire Wellness Center and stated that the center provided medical physicals, sports medicine facility, COVID-19 support, fitness testing, behavioral health and safety services. Hood provided a brief history of the Wellness Center which was established in 2010 and provided detail on the services offered to Firefighters and to other City staff.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked how often safety gear and equipment audits occurred. Hood stated that SAFD followed not only best practices but also next practices and that the department strived to be identified as a national next practice department. Hood also stated that the department was continuously audited by the State. Chair Cabello Havrda stated that she was pleased with the national recognition of the department but wanted to make sure that the department was continuously looked at as a next practice entity. Chair Cabello Havrda asked if there were Firefighter committees that provided input to management. Hood confirmed that there were various committees established.

Councilmember Viagran asked if there were services provided to Firefighters related to family support. Hood confirmed that services were provided for the members and their families to include counseling and support in the home. Councilmember Viagran stated that she wanted to assure that Firefighters were getting the treatment and services for Firefighter identified cancers. Hood stated that the SAFD worked closely with the Mays Medical Center and other medical facilities to address best treatment and services for Firefighters.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked how SAFD addressed the need for Firefighters requesting assistance in areas of mental health and addressing the stigma of requesting assistance. Hood stated that SAFD immediately addressed the mindset of services which were available to provide help for mental and physical aspects of the job and worked hard to combat old Firefighter stereotypes.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked about health and safety metrics used in SAFD. Hood reviewed the metrics utilized by the department to assure that Firefighters were in top physical condition to complete the responsibilities of a Firefighter. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested data on the metrics and related results. Hood and Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the department would provide data.

Councilmember Sandoval asked for clarification on the cancer treatment and identified relationships with organizations such as the Mays Institute and if the Institute provided findings to SAFD. Hood stated that the department was updated regularly and physical reports were provided to SAFD leadership related to diagnosis such as Cancer. Hood stated that the department was provided reports related to diagnosis but that it was up to the member to address their condition with the department.

Councilmember Sandoval asked for the status of incorporating more sustainable vehicles within the SAFD. Hood stated that it was difficult to incorporate electric vehicles within the fleet due to vital equipment requirements but stated that the SAFD always looked at other ways to develop sustainability and health related safety initiatives in other components of SAFD operations.

No action was required for Item 2.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Consideration of items for future meetings

The next Public Safety Committee was tentatively scheduled for March 15, 2022.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Chair Cabello Havrda stated that the Public Safety Committee and staff would be touring the San Antonio Fire Department's Wellness Center with no action being taken during the tour. The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 AM.

Approved

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair

Respectfully Submitted

Debbie Racca-Sittre, Interim City Clerk