



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**  
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**Agenda Item Number:** {{item.number}}

**Agenda Date:** November 18, 2024

**In Control:** Public Safety Committee

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**DEPARTMENT:** Police Department and Fire Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** William McManus, Chief of Police and Valerie Frausto, Fire Chief

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Holiday Safety Tips

**SUMMARY:**

Throughout the year, the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) and the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) collaborate with the business community, neighborhoods, and various stakeholders to deliver programs, information, and services that promote public safety. During the holiday season, the Departments intensify their efforts to educate residents on strategies and practices to stay alert and safe this time of year.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

**Police Department**

The SAPD will review with the Public Safety Committee its plan to provide important information to the community regarding how to stay safe during the holiday season.

During the holiday season, which spans from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, there is heightened risk of being the victim of certain types of crimes to include:

- Vehicle Theft and Vehicle Break-ins
  - The Department encourages individuals shopping at stores to remain cognizant of their surroundings by avoiding cell phone when walking in parking lots and parking in well-lit areas.
  - Make certain that all valuables are either removed from the vehicle or hidden out of plain view and the vehicle is locked.
- Driving While Intoxicated
  - Do not drink and drive.
  - Make plans to either have a sober ride home or to use a taxi or rideshare app.
- Porch Thefts and Home Burglaries
  - If an individual is expecting a package delivery, notify a family member or neighbor in the event you are not home at the time of delivery.
  - Properly dispose of boxes by cutting them up so that burglars cannot see what items or gifts may have been recently purchased.
  - Do not set up Christmas trees or holiday gifts in areas where they are visible through windows or doors.
  - Avoid leaving doors, windows, and garages open or unlocked and keep the exterior of your home well-lit.
  - If you see suspicious individuals in your neighborhood or on your street, report it to the San Antonio Police Department.
- Holiday Scams-What to watch out for
  - The Fake Package Delivery Text Scam
  - Social Media Ads with fake stores online or look alike stores
  - Fake Charities / Give to organizations you know or have researched
  - Fraudulent Seasonal Jobs
  - Fake texts, emails or phone calls from your bank or credit card company
- Celebratory Shots Fired
  - SAPD will introduce this year a campaign aimed at addressing celebratory shots fired.

In recognition of the increased incidences of criminal activity during the holiday season, each year the San Antonio Police Department mobilizes the Holiday Crime Reduction Taskforce from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day which is comprised of multiple SAPD units as well as state law enforcement partners. The Taskforce works proactively with the business community, and other locations, that may be susceptible to increased criminal activity to implement strategies that minimize the risk of victimization. These efforts include data-driven initiatives to identify and apprehend criminals responsible for a significant amount of the crime being committed.

The San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) will be partnering with local media to provide essential holiday safety tips. This collaboration will highlight key topics such as protecting yourself during online shopping, safeguarding credit card information, preventing jugging, and raising awareness about fraudulent organizations that often scam individuals during the holiday season. Together, SAPD and local media aim to educate the public on proactive measures to stay safe and secure during this festive time of year.

As always, the public is encouraged to contact the Department to report suspicious or suspected criminal activity. The SAPD remains committed to protecting the community and ultimately it is the continued partnership between the Department and the community that will help ensure that San Antonio remains safe.

The information provided to the public is available in English and Spanish.

**Fire Department**

The SAFD will brief the Public Safety Committee on its plan to provide the public with important information regarding being safe during the holiday season. Messaging will run from the week of November 18th through New Year's Day.

The Fire Department will focus its messaging on educating the public on staying safe when it comes to cooking, setting up the Christmas tree and decorations, or using heaters, candles, and fireplaces.

The SAFD has developed a media and messaging plan to ensure effective dissemination of holiday safety recommendations to the public. This important information will be shared through local media outlets, through social media platforms such as Facebook and Nextdoor, through the SAFD FireSafeSA.com website, and will be disseminated in both English and Spanish.

**ISSUE:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.