



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: June 10, 2025

In Control: Audit Committee

DEPARTMENT: Office of the City Auditor

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Baltazar Vargas

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Acceptance of the Office of the City Auditor Report AU24-032 Audit of SAPD Detention Center

SUMMARY:

Determine if operations are effective and in compliance with existing procedures.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Background

The Detention Center facility is open 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. A San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) Captain is assigned oversight of operations and staff. Detention Center staff search Arrested Persons (APs) on arrival, inventory property, and monitor APs. Currently, the Detention Center handles arrested persons for Class C misdemeanors including public intoxication, and all on-site arrests for the San Antonio Police Department, San Antonio Park

Police, San Antonio Airport Police, and the Department of Public Safety (DPS). APs are then sent to and processed at the Bexar County (BC) jail.

The Detention Center manually tracks inmate processing time. Currently, average processing time for inmates is 6 hours. Although, in some cases, an inebriated inmate may need to be held longer until they are sober. Additionally, nurses are on site 24/7 to administer breathalyzer tests to confirm sobriety and conduct health checks when an inmate requires medical attention. They are equipped to manage any illnesses or injuries that arise.

Scope & Methodology

The audit scope was from October 2023 through September 2024. We reviewed the adequacy of staffing level and schedules, completeness of required staff training, and the appropriate procedures for custody and release of arrested persons and incident documentation. We also tested the approved access levels of the MAGS system.

Conclusions

SAPD Detention Center operations are effective. SAPD perform searches and safeguards APs properly. Use of force procedures are properly followed, incidents are logged, and all associated records are retained. AP activity is sufficiently monitored with cameras and cell checks. AP medical issues are addressed, and cells are cleaned and maintained.

However, IT systems in place could be improved by implementing procedures to retain and analyze operational data with the goal of replacing the MAGS mainframe system with a more flexible system capable of producing meaningful reports. Management agreed with the recommendation and developed a corrective action plan.

ISSUE:

This item is presented for acceptance by the Audit Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this audit report.