



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 6

Agenda Date: January 15, 2025

In Control: Governance Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: William McManus, Chief of Police

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Cluster Mailbox Theft in the Community

SUMMARY:

On October 23, 2024, Councilmember Marina Alderete Gavito (District 7) submitted a Council Consideration Request (CCR) requesting the creation of a policy proposal to address the increasing number of cluster mailbox thefts.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Postal Inspection Service reported in 2024 that cluster mailboxes have become increasingly targeted for theft, resulting in lost mail, compromised personal information, and heightened anxiety within communities. Since cluster mailboxes carry a much larger amount of mail than individual mailboxes, they are more appealing to bad actors. Although, the United States Postal Service developed a plan aimed to improve the investigation of mail theft, there appears to be little assistance to help local residents impacted by mail theft.

The San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) investigates claims of property damage to cluster mailboxes and mail theft. Some of the challenges SAPD faces in investigating and resolving these crimes include the absence of crucial investigative leads, such as physical evidence, video surveillance, fingerprints, eyewitness accounts, or detailed descriptions of suspect vehicles. These limitations hinder the identification and apprehension of suspects and complicate the successful prosecution of cases.

ISSUE:

The CCR requests that the City create a program to assist public and private Homeowners' Associations in obtaining and installing All Night Security Lighting around mailboxes in their neighborhood, in partnership with CPS Energy's existing program. This program should also assist with providing other theft-deterrence measures, such as signage and neighborhood theft-prevention measures.

The CCR also requests the creation of a Mail Theft Task Force composed of local and federal agencies and stakeholders to better coordinate and address the issue of cluster mailbox theft in our community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends this CCR be forwarded to the Public Safety Committee.