

City of San Antonio



Minutes Public Safety Committee

2023 – 2025 Council Members

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6, Chair
Dr. Sukh Kaur, Dist. 1 | Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2
Marina Alderete Gavito, Dist. 7 | Marc Whyte, Dist. 10

Tuesday, August 20, 2024

9:30 AM

**Council Briefing Room at
City Hall Complex**

The Public Safety Committee convened a regular meeting in the City Hall Council Briefing Room beginning at 9:38 AM. Deputy City Clerk Aurora Perkins took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

Members Present: Melissa Cabello Havrda, *Chair*
Dr. Sukh Kaur, *Member*
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*
Members Absent: Marina Alderete Gavito, *Member*
Marc Whyte, *Member*

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from the June 28, 2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting

Councilmember Kaur moved to Approve the minutes of the June 28, 2024 Public Safety Committee meeting. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Cabello Havrda, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez
Absent: Alderete Gavito, Whyte

Briefing and Possible Action on

Consent

2. **Briefing and possible action on a San Antonio Police Department grant award in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00 for the Comprehensive Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for the period of October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.** [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Councilmember Kaur moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Cabello Havrda, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez
Absent: Alderete Gavito, Whyte

3. **Briefing and possible action on the Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Melissa Cabello Havrda (District 6) on Elder Abuse Reporting.** [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez introduced the Item and Assistant Police Chief Karen Falks who provided an overview and recommendations on the Council Consideration Request (CCR) submitted by Chair Cabello Havrda. She recognized Bexar County Judge Veronica Vasquez who assisted in the recommendations for the CCR.

Falks noted that staff had met and reviewed the CCR so to make a recommendation on the subject of elder abuse and exploitation cases. She stated that the CCR was filed by Chair Cabello Havrda and called for City Departments that encountered elder abuse to establish a requirement for all elder abuse and neglect calls to be reported to Adult Protective Services (APS). She added that the State of Texas had a mandatory reporting requirement to report any acts or suspicions of elder abuse of an adult over the age of 65 and she reviewed Texas Penal Code 22.04 which makes it a crime to act to intentionally, knowingly or recklessly by omission to cause bodily, injury, serious mental deficiency impairment or injury to an individual over the age of 65.

Falks reviewed the current existing practices for the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) on elder abuse instances. She noted that SAPD Officers received training on what constituted elder abuse and how to report cases or suspicions to DHS. She spoke to the different types of elder abuse including physical, mental, and financial abuse. She noted that the Senior Services Division of DHS worked closely with SAPD and community partners making up an Elder Abuse and Exploitation Task Force. Falks stated that the Task Force, which was co-founded by Texas Senator Jose Menendez and Judge Vasquez, and met monthly to discuss issues, preventive measures, and strategies to prevent Elder Abuse. She added that the Task Force members were made up of City, Bexar County, APS and other community stakeholders.

Falks noted that staff-recommended training was conducted by the Department of Human Services Senior Division who would work with APS to develop a curriculum that would be used to provide training to City employees who had direct contact with seniors from SAPD, the San Antonio Fire Department, DHS, Neighborhood and Housing Services, Metro Health, 3-1-1,

and the City Attorney's Office. She added that the training would focus on how to identify signs of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation and a review of the mandatory reporting requirements under Texas Law as to how to report elder abuse to APS.

DISCUSSION

Chair Cabello Havrda thanked the team and Judge Vasquez on the research and work conducted on elder abuse cases. She stressed the importance of taking care of elders in our community. She asked for clarification on which department would receive training which Falks clarified. Chair Cabello Havrda requested that Animal Care Services (ACS) staff be included in the training curriculum.

Chair Cabello Havrda requested quarterly reporting of training and outcomes. She invited Judge Vasquez to speak on the proposed recommendations and the work of the Task Force. Vasquez thanked all staff who worked on the Item and noted that the training was the first in the State. She noted that Bexar County had a huge number of elder abuse and exploitation cases and she noted the importance of the program. She thanked Senior Services and SAPD for their participation on the Task Force and making recommendations. Lisa Sentero of the Department of Human Services Senior Division spoke in support of the Task Force and work to assist elders in the community. Vasquez noted that Senator Menendez was instrumental in the development of the program.

Councilmember Kaur asked for clarification on financial exploitation cases. Vasquez reviewed that financial exploitation cases were often conducted by family or friends of elders. She spoke to the reporting of cases and investigation practices. She noted that it was difficult to have a specific number of cases since many times elders did not want to report family members. Vasquez also noted that many elders did not have the mental capacity to report cases and it was important for others to report cases.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez spoke in support of staff recommendations and noted the need to assist our elders. He noted that it was important to address gaps for reporting to make sure that elders were protected. He supported the inclusion of ACS staff to receive training and requested that SAPL and Code Enforcement be included in the training. Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez stated that those staff would be included in the training.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that it was important to provide training to all staff on all levels of abuse to include youth. He asked if the Item needed to be approved to put into practice and if it needed to be brought forward to the entire City Council for discussion. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that staff recommendations would become effective based on the input from the Committee but that a presentation to the entire City Council could be provided.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez noted that many non-profits assisted with abuse issues and asked if they could also receive training. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that this request would be explored.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to Approve. Councilmember Kaur seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Cabello Havrda, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez
Absent: Alderete Gavito, Whyte

4. **Briefing and possible action on the Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Marina Alderete Gavito (District 7) on a Bird Sanctuary Designation.** [David W. McCary, Assistant City Manager; Michael Shannon, Interim Director, Animal Care Services]

The Item was pulled and not discussed.

5. **Briefing and possible action on the Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Adriana Rocha Garcia (District 4) on a Designated Oversized Vehicle Parking Facility.** [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; Maria Vargas, Director, Integrated Community Safety Office]

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez introduced the Item and Community Safety Officer Maria Vargas-Yates who provided an overview of the Council Consideration Request (CCR) authored by Councilmember Rocha Garcia on the review of Designated Oversized Vehicle Parking Facilities.

Vargas-Yates noted that staff had identified outreach opportunities to hear from drivers and residents regarding potential changes to City Code that would impact overnight parking of oversized vehicles, conduct an analysis of private spaces that allowed oversized parking for rent or free of charge, and develop a plan to initiate a designated facility for oversized parking with City-owned land in partnership with impoundment facility space or a private business contract.

Vargas-Yates reviewed the timeline of the CCR review which began in May 2022 which initially began with a CCR submitted by Councilmember Pelaez addressing overnight parking regulations for oversize vehicles. She spoke to presentations to the Public Safety Committee and public comment sessions conducted. She noted that the Public Safety Committee had approved Councilmember Pelaez CCR's move to a B Session meeting for a proposed City Code change restricting parking on non-residential streets and requirements. She added that the CCR from Councilmember Rocha Garcia was submitted in April 2024. Deputy City Manager Villagomez noted that the CCR submitted by Councilmember Pelaez was not addressed at a B Session since it was decided to address both CCRs together since one could impact the recommendation of the other.

Vargas-Yates reviewed the current state of truck parking in San Antonio and noted that there was currently a shortage of 465 spaces based weekday average of modeled data at 1:00 AM which was considered the statewide peak hour. She noted that there were 40 documented truck parking locations which were comprised of 27 privately owned lots, eight rest areas/travel info centers and five picnic/pullout areas. She added that the majority of trucks were parking from 15 minutes to one hour (64%) followed by trucks parking for eight hours to 14 hours (15%).

Vargas-Yates reviewed the data of parking density locations and at each of the known parking areas. She spoke to parking hot spots and statistics for parking within the San Antonio area from the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDoT). She provided for the Committee's review data on identified truck parking facilities by location and available spaces.

Vargas-Yates reviewed the options to address parking which included requesting TxDOT to prioritize the San Antonio District on future efforts and grants to improve truck parking. She spoke to possible grant opportunities under Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA), Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) and National Infrastructure Assistance. She noted that TXDOT currently requested \$22.2 million from the FY 2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Fund to construct two freight intermodal facilities that provided rest stops, truck parking, and affordable multimodal options for moving goods and people. She provided examples in the areas of Angleton and Freeport.

Vargas Yates noted that other options for parking could include providing information on where oversized vehicles could park including identified streets in industrial and commercial areas suitable for truck parking and developing an on-line tool that would determine where to park. Deputy City Manager Villagomez spoke to the development of on-line tool that would provide information to drivers on available parking and areas that did not permit parking.

DISCUSSION

Chair Cabello Havrda stated that both recommendations presented would be beneficial especially those for TxDOT. She noted that San Antonio was growing and that grant opportunities would be beneficial. She recommended discussions with the MPO to also seek options.

Chair Cabello Havrda stated that it was important to educate residents and drivers of available resources. She asked if the CCR submitted by Councilmember Pelaez would be addressed or changed. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that recommendations would be to address them together since one could impact recommendations for the other.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez noted that he had experienced commercial vehicles that blocked his residential street mail boxes and spoke to the need for education of available spaces. He noted that it was important to increase spaces and seek funding for additional parking. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that he did not support parking lots that would require zoning changes since there were needs for grocery stores and other services within his community. He recommended a study of potential sites identification.

Councilmember Kaur asked if there were concerns that drivers did not want to pay for parking. Vargas-Yates stated that it was up to the driver to pay for parking but noted that the majority of drivers were local who wanted to park close to their residences and did not want to pay.

Councilmember Kaur asked of communication of those types of drivers that were local. Vargas-Yates stated that lists of drivers could be obtained at a minimum from the TXDOT and that staff would conduct research on other options.

Councilmember Kaur asked if there was a parcel of land that could be donated by the City. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the City did not currently own a parcel of land suitable for this purpose but would continue to review parcels as they become available.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked if there were additional resources to obtain a list of truck drivers to gain information on parking issues. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that

staff would engage trade associations and TXDoT to gain lists.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked if staff would return to the Committee or go directly to B Session. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that most likely staff would return to the Committee in November 2024 after researching options further. He asked if the CCR submitted by Councilmember Pelaez addressing overnight parking could be addressed quickly. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that she considered the two CCRs complimentary to each other and that identification of recommendations could impact both and she recommended addressing them together.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to Approve. Councilmember Kaur seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Cabello Havrda, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez
Absent: Alderete Gavito, Whyte

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Consideration of items for future meetings

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Approved

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk