



# Cluster Mailbox Theft

San Antonio Police Department

Item # 6

# COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST

Submitted October 23, 2024, by Council District 7

## Background

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. The United States Postal Service developed a plan aimed to improve the investigation of mail theft, but 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. SAPD faces significant challenges in investigating and resolving these crimes, including the absence of crucial investigative leads, such as physical evidence, video surveillance, fingerprints, eyewitness accounts, or detailed descriptions of suspect vehicles.

## Request

1. 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
2. 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

# **Staff Recommendation**



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