



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 7

Agenda Date: August 16, 2024

In Control: Governance Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: William McManus, Chief of Police

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Council Consideration Request on an Elder Fraud Prevention Program

SUMMARY:

On June 11, 2024, Councilmember Manny Pelaez (District 8) submitted a Council Consideration Request (CCR) requesting the creation of a comprehensive Elder Fraud Program that:

1. Creates a city-wide education campaign to help the senior community recognize common scams, seek assistance, and report fraud.
2. Creates an Elder Fraud Taskforce that works jointly to investigate, prosecute, and better understand the financial scams, targeting older adults. The task force would include the following stakeholders from City Departments, Utilities, Bexar County, Federal and State Agencies, Service Providers and community stakeholders.

- The Taskforce should submit an annual report of its activities and finding to the City Council and provide advice on how to better serve and protect or senior residents as it relates to elder fraud.
- Additionally, the Elder Fraud Taskforce should gather input from relevant non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, and affected seniors to better inform its recommendations

to City Council.

3. Requires the City Manager to include elder fraud prevention as a priority in COSA's state and federal legislative agendas.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The San Antonio Police Department and the City's Department of Human Services have been members of the local Elder Abuse and Exploitation Task Force since 2020. The Elder Abuse and Exploitation Task Force was co-founded by Texas Senator Jose Menendez and Bexar County Judge Veronica Vasquez, includes elected and government officials as well as representatives from law enforcement and the financial sectors. The team meets monthly with numerous stakeholders to discuss issues, prevention measures, and strategies to prevent Elder Abuse to include Elder Fraud.

Since 2020, some of the work accomplished among the different agencies that make up the taskforce include Adult Protective Services hiring more investigators and local financial institutions collaboration to address financial abuse.

On August 6, the Taskforce submitted a grant application to the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) for the OVW Fiscal Year 2024 Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life Program for Project POWER: Providing Older Women's Empowerment and Recovery. The grant amount is for \$800,000 for a term beginning October 2024 and ending March 31, 2028. If approved, this grant will allow for a multi-disciplinary team approach to discuss cases, review evidence, and develop an individualized intervention plan for each older person.

ISSUE:

The CCR requests that the City create a comprehensive Elder Fraud Program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

The City will collaborate with the County through the existing Elder Abuse and Exploitation Task Force to address the CCR request. SAPD and Human resources will continue to conduct elder fraud education training sessions and Human resources will continue efforts to facilitate seniors access to financial empowerment and security programming.

The progress work on this CCR will be presented to the Public Safety Committee on an annual

basis.

It is further recommended that staff will discuss elder fraud prevention as a priority for the next state and federal legislative agendas.