



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

Agenda Item Number: 5

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:

Reduce Celebratory Gunfire & “Call the Shots” Public Campaign

SUMMARY:

On September 24, 2024, Councilmember Teri Castillo (District 5) and Councilmember Marina Alderete Gavito (District 7) submitted a Council Consideration Request (CCR) on Reducing Celebratory Gunfire & a "Call the Shots" Public Service Campaign

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The residents of District 5 and 7, and across San Antonio frequently experience sounds of stray gunfire in and around their neighborhoods. Oftentimes, these gunfire incidents lead to stray bullets which then land in residents' yards, on residents' personal vehicles, or even through the windows of residents' homes. Although these occurrences take place throughout the year, they are especially notable during holiday celebrations associated with fireworks, such as the Fourth of July or New Year's Eve. The CCR requests that:

- City Staff should operationalize existing relationships with media and advertising partners to coordinate a public information campaign on the dangers and illegality of celebratory gunfire with appropriate City, County, State, and Federal enforcement

authorities including but not limited to SAPD, Bexar County Sheriff's Office, Bexar County District Attorney's Office, and the Texas Department of Public Safety.

- City Staff should coordinate a public information campaign entitled "Call the Shots" to educate and empower residents to call any incidents of gunshots in to the SAPD Non-Emergency Line.
- These efforts should be led by the City's Communications and Engagement Department with a focus on rolling out public information campaigns yearly around holiday celebrations associated with fireworks.
- The campaign should include information on the dangers of celebratory gunfire, the illegality of celebratory gunfire and the legal consequences that can come with the act, and a reminder on the importance of reporting celebratory gunfire to SAPD for enforcement of the law.

ISSUE:

Councilmember Teri Castillo (District 5) and Councilmember Marina Alderete Gavito (District 7) submitted a Council Consideration Request (CCR) on Reducing Celebratory Gunfire & a "Call the Shots" Public Service Campaign.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is for briefing only

ALTERNATIVES:

This is for briefing only

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends referring this CCR to the Public Safety Committee.