



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 38

Agenda Date: August 29, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Integrated Community Safety Office

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Maria Vargas

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Authorization of Community Safety Reserve Funds for Violent Crime Reduction Plan Strategies.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes the use of \$420,000 from the \$3.5 million Community Safety reserve to implement strategies from Phase II of the Violent Crime Reduction Plan. Funds will be used to purchase security equipment (\$405,000) and support Animal Care Services vaccine and spay-neuter clinic events (\$15,000). These recommendations were approved by the Public Safety Committee on June 28, 2024.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In April 2022, the SAPD partnered with UTSA Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice to assist in the development of a violent crime reduction plan. Following the evaluation of crime data and existing Department strategies, UTSA provided the SAPD with a three-year violent crime reduction plan.

The Violent Crime Reduction Plan is comprised of three phases founded on evidence-based strategies. Phase I consists of hot spot policing with a short-term focus on substantially increasing police visibility at locations where violent crime is concentrated and prioritizing street-level

deterrence in these areas. Phase II incorporates a mid-term strategy focused on violent places within the city using a Problem-Oriented, Place-Based Policing (POPBP) approach. Finally, for Phase III, the SAPD will lead a focused deterrence strategy to help break the cycle of violence among the small number of repeat and high-risk offenders who are responsible for committing most of the violent crime in San Antonio.

The first phase of implementation began in January 2023. The second phase of implementation began in November 2023 with the evaluation of five locations where violent crime levels were not reduced by the hot spot policing in Phase I. Of the five locations, 1303 Rigsby was selected by UTSA and the Executive POPBP Team (EPT). This team is comprised of Department Directors from Metro Health, Human Services, Housing and Neighborhood Services, Code Enforcement, Solid Waste, Parks, Animal Care Services, Planning, Public Works, City Attorney's Office, Integrated Community Safety, the Assistant Chief of Police, and the Deputy City Manager.

1303 Rigsby is the site of the Rosemont at Highland Park Apartments, a property operated in partnership between Opportunity Home and Beacon Communities. Rosemont Apartments are located within Council District 2 near IH-10 and Roland Avenue. It has 252 units, of which 205 are occupied with approximately 600 residents.

The EPT developed recommendations to reduce crime at Rosemont Apartments. These recommendations were presented to the Public Safety Committee on June 28, 2024. The recommendations included purchasing security equipment worth \$405,000 and Animal Care Service (ACS) vaccine and spay-neuter clinic events for \$15,000. Funding for these items would come from the City's \$3.5 million Community Safety reserve. The Public Safety Committee approved these recommendations and voted to send to the full City Council for approval.

ISSUE:

This ordinance authorizes the use of \$420,000 from the \$3.5 million Community Safety reserve to purchase security equipment and ACS clinics. Security equipment would consist of automatic license plate readers and mobile security cameras for a total of \$405,000. The equipment would be deployed in coordination between SAPD and Rosemont Apartments to deter crime and reduce flow of stolen vehicles in the area. Equipment would continue to be used afterwards at future Problem-Oriented Place-Based Policing (POPBP) sites. Funding would also support three (3) ACS spay clinic events at \$5,000 each for a total of \$15,000 to improve responsible pet ownership in the area. Once approved, the City would initiate procurement of the items and possibly return to City Council for approval of any related purchase agreements over \$50,000.

ALTERNATIVES:

None.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes the use of \$420,000 from the \$3.5 million Community Safety reserve to implement strategies to reduce violent crime at Rosemont Apartments. Funds will be used to purchase security equipment (\$405,000) and support Animal Care Services vaccine clinics (\$15,000). Funding for this initiative is included in the General Fund FY 2024 Estimate as presented with the FY 2025 Proposed Budget on Thursday, August 15.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.