

City of San Antonio



Minutes Public Safety Committee

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

9:30 AM

Municipal Plaza Building

Members Present: Melissa Cabello Havrda, *Chair*
Phyllis Viagran, *Member*
Ana Sandoval, *Member*
Clayton Perry, *Member*

Members Absent: Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from the November 16, 2021 Public Safety Committee Meeting

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve the meeting minutes of the November 16, 2021 Public Safety Committee. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Cabello Havrda, Viagran, Sandoval, Perry

Absent: McKee-Rodriguez

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. Briefing and possible action on a Council Consideration Request submitted by Councilmember Adriana Rocha Garcia on a City of San Antonio Emergency Preparedness Implementation Plan. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager]

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez presented an overview of Items 2 and 3 in a combined presentation. Villagomez introduced the leadership team of the Emergency Operations Center and explained that the Council Consideration Request (CCR) by Councilmember Rocha Garcia was to create a comprehensive City of San Antonio Emergency Preparedness

Implementation Plan.

Villagomez provided an overview of the FY 2022 Budget which included \$8.5 million for Resiliency and the Committee on Emergency Preparedness recommended 24 actions in response to February 2021's Winter Storm Uri. Villagomez reported that in addition to implementing these actions, the CCR asked for a strengthened relationship with the Utilities, Emergency Back-up Generator Plan, and coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency required Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City. Villagomez provided an overview and timeline for the update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Villagomez explained that the CCR also requested a Plan for Preparedness for Individuals with Disabilities and there had been coordination with the Department of Human Services and Baptist Child and Family Services to begin a needs assessment, which was expected to be provided to the Public Safety Committee next month.

Villagomez stated that although it was not a part of the CCR, she provided an update on the establishment of Resilience Hubs included in the FY 2022 Budget which were under evaluation and Community Engagement and City Council Policy Discussion was planned for March 2022.

Villagomez reported on the Winter Weather Preparedness Planning that had occurred including outreach, identification of Warming Centers and the establishment of winter weather triggers. Villagomez described the Community Preparedness Workshops.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Cabello Havrda asked Villagomez to explain what she meant by "Tabletop Exercise". Villagomez explained that a Tabletop Exercise was a simulation of an event to help staff and partners prepare. Chair Cabello Havrda requested significant outreach for Resiliency Hubs as well as coordination with VIA Metropolitan Transit to provide safe transportation.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked for clarification on the Alert System for persons with Disabilities both deaf and blind persons as well as Senior Citizens. Staff explained that they would coordinate with Disability Advisory Council on the needs of persons with disabilities. Chair Cabello Havrda requested the list of resources to include 9-1-1.

Councilmember Perry asked for clarification on participation in the Tabletop Exercise which Villagomez explained included a mock emergency with 60+ staff and partner participants to identify how they would respond and identify areas for improvement.

Councilmember Perry requested that staff include information on preparedness for Summer emergencies within the Plan. Councilmember Perry asked for a prioritized breakdown of the number of generators needed. Villagomez stated that she would

provide information on generators included in the Bond and the FY 2022 Budget.

Councilmember Perry recommended a standard Emergency Preparedness Plan, rather than one for Winter and a separate one for Summer. Councilmember Perry suggested informational videos for residents that show actions such as “How to turn off your water,” etc. Villagomez explained that FEMA had videos but they did not cover those items and indicated that she would coordinate with SAWS, CPS Energy and various departments to create instructional videos.

3. Briefing and possible action on a Council Consideration Request submitted by Councilmember Clayton Perry on a creation of an Emergency Preparedness Community Guide. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager]

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez provided background information on the CCR by Councilmember Perry which requested the creation of an Emergency Preparedness Community Guide. Villagomez explained that the City of San Antonio had been a part of the Ready South Texas Program of the Department of Homeland Security Urban Area Security Administration since it was established in 2004. The Ready South Texas Guide and App, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided community preparedness information which the City had utilized in the past.

Villagomez reported that the San Antonio Winter Weather Preparedness Guide in both English and Spanish had been prepared by staff utilizing the resources as well as information from partnering utilities and was expected to be printed this week. Villagomez announced that 70,000 Winter Preparedness Door Hangers would be distributed in areas of the City that experienced challenges accessing computers on the East, West and South sides of the City. The plan also included providing the materials in hard copy at City Facilities, Council Offices and Non-Profit Partner offices, through media and social media. Villagomez provided information on improvements that had been made to the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry Program for persons with disabilities. Villagomez stated that in person and virtual workshops and a plan for a Stay Healthy and Safe during the summer guide were to be developed in April 2022.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember Viagran asked which City Council body would review the Plan. Villagomez replied that it would need to be approved by full City Council. Councilmember Viagran requested a timeline for City Council to submit questions for staff and utility partners in advance of the full City Council discussion in order to facilitate improved conversation. Councilmember Viagran recommended workshops for seniors on how to use the resources and the Ready South Texas App.

Councilmember Viagran recommended inclusion of the Plans and Updates on SA Speak Up. Villagomez stated that the Emergency Management webpage would include the documents and SA Speak Up could link to that page. Councilmember Viagran supported more information on generators and suggested a plan for testing the generators.

Councilmember Viagran recommended that information on energy savings during emergencies be included in the flyers. Councilmember Viagran suggested that staff collect a list of businesses that wanted to serve as Resiliency Hubs as well as the criteria required to become a Resiliency Hubs. Councilmember Viagran also asked for more specialized communications with Senior Citizens.

Councilmember Sandoval was concerned that focusing only on City of San Antonio residents might cause confusion and recommended close coordination with Bexar County and suggested the Offices of Disability, Equity, and Inclusion be represented in the planning efforts. Villagomez stated that they would be included in the next exercise.

Councilmember Sandoval suggested coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation regarding road conditions during bad weather as well as a contingency for residents without a car. Councilmember Sandoval recommended sharing more information with businesses regarding Resiliency Hubs and wanted to ensure that climate change information was included in the Hazard Mitigation Plan with time for the information to be taken into consideration on an ongoing basis.

Chair Cabello Havrda closed the discussion by thanking staff for their work and requested that Flooding be addressed in the Emergency Preparedness Guide for Residents.

4. Briefing on the 2021 Preliminary Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Chief of Police William P. McManus presented an update on the 2021 Preliminary Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics which included a comparison of 2017 through 2021. Chief McManus reported that Violent Crime was down 9.15% and Property Crime had risen by 4.39% in the past year (2021 versus 2020). Chief McManus provided an overview of the factors contributing to homicides in 2021 with “arguments” listed as the main contributing factor (36.31%). Chief McManus explained the SAPD’s data driven approach and described the Micro Hot Spot Initiative Pilot Program that would be brought before the Committee in April 2022. Chief McManus reported on the implementation of additional SAFTE Officers, as well as the results of the Community Engagement Team.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Cabello Havrda asked for clarification on the UCR report, and Chief Salame explained that UCR only reports the highest offense, where NIBERS used all offenses which would display

more in the next report. Chair Cabello Havrda suggested more engagement with Seniors in neighborhoods because they could identify Hot Spots.

Councilmember Perry recommended that reports highlighting repeat offenders should be provided to the District Attorney, so they could take appropriate action to keep our City safe. Chief McManus reported that he had met with the Chiefs in multiple jurisdictions with the results of criminal justice reforms that allowed for more Personal Recognizance Bonds and other Cite and Release regulations, and the Chief explained that they were seeing less fear of the Police by the criminal element.

Councilmember Viagran requested that her Council colleagues not implement a “Cite and Release” Ordinance at the present time because of the increase in homicides. Councilmember Viagran asked the Chief what City Council could do to help the situation. Chief McManus suggested that many of the homicides were caused by people carrying guns illegally, not legal carriers of guns. Councilmember Viagran recommended review of the issue of family violence, and to not frame family violence as a mental health issue.

Chair Cabello Havrda closed the discussion by requesting that the Chief of Police bring a set of recommendations to the next discussion on the topic.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:27 A.M.

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair

Respectfully Submitted

Debbie Racca-Sittre, Interim City Clerk