

City of San Antonio



Minutes

Public Safety Committee Meeting

2021 – 2023 Council Members

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6

Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2 | Phyllis Viagran, Dist. 3

Ana Sandoval, Dist. 7 | Clayton Perry, Dist. 10

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

9:30 AM

City Hall

The Public Safety Committee convened a regular meeting in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 10:02 AM. Deputy City Clerk Aurora Perkins took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

Members Present: Melissa Cabello Havrda, *Chair*
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*
Phyllis Viagran, *Member*
Clayton Perry, *Member*

Members Absent: Ana Sandoval, *Member*

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from the March 21, 2022 and June 10, 2022 Public Safety Committee meetings.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to Approve the minutes from the March 21, 2022 and June 10, 2022 Public Safety Committee meetings. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Cabello Havrda, McKee-Rodriguez, Perry

Absent: Viagran, Sandoval

Councilmember Viagran entered the meeting at 10:21 AM.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. Briefing and Possible action on the FY 2023 Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority

(MVCPA) Regional Auto Crimes Team (ReACT) Grant. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Police Chief William McManus provided an overview of the Regional Auto Crimes Team (ReACT) and briefed the Committee on education and enforcement conducted under the ReACT Campaign. He noted that the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) partnered with the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and noted that SAPD had submitted a grant application and provided the next steps of the grant approval process.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked for clarification on steps used in the auto prevention program. McManus provided clarification of processes used by SAPD. Chair Cabello Havrda asked of outreach and community engagement on the program. McManus provided an overview of projected outreach and stated that outreach information would be provided to the Committee for disbursement into the community. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that staff would provide a list of programs promoted within the community to Councilmembers.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked for specifics of the ReACT team scope. McManus provided examples of the scope of work for the ReACT team and partnerships with DPS. Deputy City Manager Villagomez noted that the ReACT program was a statewide program and that a report of statewide statistics would be provided to the Committee.

Councilmember Perry asked for clarification on the number of vehicles stolen and recovered in a year. McManus stated that approximately 7,000 vehicles were stolen in a year and approximately 800 were recovered per year. Councilmember Perry requested a heat map of stolen vehicles. McManus stated that he would provide the information.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested the number of vehicles recovered from 2011 through 2021. McManus stated that he would provide the information. McKee-Rodriguez stated that he would be interested to know why the numbers fluctuated and the cause. He asked of the recidivism rate. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that she would provide that information. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked how the program was innovative, if staff were utilizing evidence-based strategies and if staff were consulting with criminologists. McManus stated that there was not a gold standard program to prevent theft. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that staff would provide the data requested.

Councilmember Perry asked that staff communicate with Bexar County regarding their withdrawal from the grant. He requested data from other cities regarding the number of vehicles stolen and vehicles recovered.

Councilmember Viagran asked if there was any data on thefts that included the use of firearms. McManus stated that the data was not currently available but would be provided.

McKee-Rodriguez asked for more data on what the \$.2.2 million in-kind funding was used for. Assistant Chief Riley clarified what the funding was used for to include existing personnel and vehicles and that \$800,000 of the funding would be used for program education and outreach. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez expressed concern on the low number of vehicles recovered

under the program and noted the need to further expand to increase recovery rates.

Chair Cabello Havrda stated that it was important that the City was innovative in identifying practices to increase the number of vehicles recovered. She stated that staff should identify what other measures were utilized in other cities for the recovery of vehicles. McManus stated that vehicle owners were educated on what to do and not do to prevent vehicle theft.

Councilmember Perry moved to recommend and forward the application for the FY2023 Motor Vehicle Crime Authority (MVCPA) Regional Auto Crimes Team (ReACT) grant to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Cabello Havrda, Viagran, Perry
Abstain: McKee-Rodriguez
Absent: Sandoval

3. Briefing and Possible action on a professional services agreement to conduct a staffing study of SAPD resources. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez introduced the item and Police Chief William McManus who provided a briefing on a profession services agreement to conduct a staffing study of SAPD resources to include the number of Police Officers, resources and equipment. McManus noted that the analysis would specifically focus on areas of all human resources components to include overtime, staffing numbers and resources used. McManus provided an overview of the solicitation process for the study and noted that only one respondent (Alexander Weiss Consulting) had submitted a proposal and that the contract was set to be considered by the full City Council on June 23, 2022.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked specifics on the proposed awardee selected and what the study would include. McManus stated that the contractor had conducted several studies nationally and listed the areas covered. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked for clarification on which programs and staffing would be reviewed and if the study would provide recommendations for increases or decreases in police staffing and deployment metrics. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the analysis report would include a review current staffing and recommendations made and would be reviewed by leadership to act based on the recommendations.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked for clarification on recent audit results and inclusion in the analysis. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that all reports pertinent to the scope of work would be provided to the consultant for review. She provided further clarification on the study's scope of work and goals of the study.

Councilmember Viagran asked for clarification on the data to be reviewed by the consultant. McManus stated that census data would not be included and that workload data would be used. Councilmember Viagran asked if incarceration data would be reviewed in order to include data on

domestic violence crimes. McManus stated that staff would discuss possible inclusion of data in analysis.

Councilmember Perry expressed his support of the study and stated that the analysis was needed to ensure that staffing was adequate. Councilmember Perry asked for an update on a quarterly basis.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested that the study include analysis on how workload could be decreased where needed. McManus stated that a discussion would occur with consultant for possible inclusion in the scope of work. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked that a staffing study be conducted for all departments to ensure that those departments had sufficient staffing to address departmental needs.

Councilmember Viagran asked when the study would be concluded. McManus stated that the study would be completed six months after the contract was signed.

Councilmember Perry moved to recommend and forward a professional services agreement to conduct a staffing study of SAPD resources to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Cabello Havrda, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Perry
Absent: Sandoval

4. Briefing and Possible action on the status of the UTSA Violent Crime Reduction Plan.
[María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Police Chief William McManus provided an overview of the status of the UTSA Crime Reduction Plan and reviewed the principles of violence reduction, routine activities theory components and the prerequisites for a successful Violent Crime Reduction Strategy. He noted that there were three complementary strategies to include hot spot policing, place-based and long term strategies. McManus reviewed the project timeline to include Committee and full City Council review and approval.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked how a crime hot spot was determined. McManus reviewed how violent crime data statistics were reviewed and hot spot areas identified. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that 3-1-1 data would also be included in the analysis. Chair Cabello Havrda asked if community engagement would be included in the plan to include residents and small businesses. McManus confirmed that community engagement would include small businesses and non-profits.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked which criminologist would be participating in the study. McManus stated that Dr. Smith and Dr. Tillier would be conducting the study. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked for data on other cities to be included in the report. McManus stated that the information would be provided.

McKee-Rodriguez asked for clarification of hot spot policing policies. McManus stated that hot spot strategies included patrolling particular places and related data.

Councilmember Perry asked for clarification on micro hot spot mapping. McManus provided clarification on data and stated that additional data would be provided on specific crimes and rates for each hot spot area. Councilmember Perry expressed his support of the study.

Councilmember Viagran requested data on hot spot area crime statistics to provide to council district residents. Councilmember Viagran asked if there were additional programs available to address the early release of criminals and where they continued to commit crimes. McManus stated that SAPD and Bexar County were responsible for the release of criminals and that a joint effort was needed to address criminals overall. Councilmember Viagran asked that staff work with Bexar County to address criminal release issues.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked for clarification on what kind of crimes would be included in the study. McManus stated that violent crimes would be included.

Councilmember Perry stated that a partnership with Bexar County was needed to address bonding and that the magistrate process should also be included.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked if varied long term strategies would be considered. Deputy City Manager Villagomez clarified that the presentation did not include the recommendations by UTSA but that once the recommendations were provided to staff that they would be briefed to the Committee in October 2022. McManus reiterated that discussions would be held with the District Attorney, magistrate courts and parole services to address recidivism and improvements to crime rates. Councilmember McKee- Rodriguez stated that he agreed that larger discussions were needed and that all crimes be reviewed with criminologists to decrease overall crime.

Councilmember Viagran asked that stakeholder outreach include foster care services and Child Advocates San Antonio (CASA) to gain more data on crime rates and the impact on crime victims. She asked that all Councilmembers be reached for stakeholder input.

No action was required for Item 4.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Approved

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair

Aurora Perkins, Deputy City Clerk

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