

City of San Antonio



Minutes Public Safety Committee

2021 – 2023 Council Members

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2 | Phyllis Viagran, Dist. 3 Ana
Sandoval, Dist. 7 | Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

9:30 AM

City Hall Complex

The Public Safety Committee convened a regular meeting in the Council Briefing Room in the City Hall Complex beginning at 9:32 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*
Phyllis Viagran, *Member*
Manny Pelaez, *Member*
Mario Bravo, *Member*

Members Absent: Jalen McKee-Rodriguez *Member*

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from the October 18, 2022 Public Safety Committee Meeting

Councilmember Pelaez moved to Approve the minutes from the October 18, 2022 Public Safety Committee meeting. Councilmember Bravo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Bravo

Absent: McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran

Councilmember Viagran entered the meeting after the vote at 9:37 AM.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. Briefing by Animal Care Services on the Animal Care Services Strategic Plan [David W. McCary, Assistant City Manager; Shannon Sims, Director, Animal Care Services]

Shannon Oster-Gabrielson, Assistant to the Director of Animal Care Services, provided a briefing on the Animal Care Services Strategic Plan and the phased approach of the Plan implementation. She noted that the Plan included feedback from City leadership, staff, the Animal Care Services Advisory Board and other stakeholders. She reviewed best practice research conducted which included partnerships for placement of animals, community assistance, spay/neuter services and other services provided.

Oster-Gabrielson reviewed the results of the Strategic Plan Survey which included community input. She noted that community feedback was received during five community meetings and provided insight on services wanted by the community. She added that a focus group of community partners and that a community needs assessment was conducted to gain additional feedback. She reviewed the timeline of the final reporting process to City leadership which included reporting to City Council in January 2023. She stated that the developed Plan would pave the way to improve Animal Care services to the community.

DISCUSSION

Chair Cabello Havrda stated that she looked forward to the final Plan and noted that there was a great demand for spay/neuter services and asked what was being done to expand those services. Animal Care Services Director Shannon Sims stated that staff was looking to bring in new vendors and partnerships in addition to current vendors to offer expanded capacity of spay/neuter services. He noted that there were already many veterinary vendors that provided services throughout the community. Chair Cabello Havrda asked of the status of the mobile unit spay/neuter services. Sims noted that during COVID the mobile unit required improvements which were being addressed and that he hoped that the mobile unit would be available later in the fiscal year.

Councilmember Viagran stated that animal care services and programs were very important in her community. She noted that stray animals in her council district were very prevalent and asked if there was research as to why there was a high number in her community. Sims stated that economic impacts and increased need for spay/neuter services were reasons for increased numbers. Councilmember Viagran stated that senior resident pet owners had challenges in keeping their pets and that programs and education were needed for pet owners in order to keep their animals. She requested a breakdown of data for her council district from community meetings.

Councilmember Pelaez requested communication materials that discussed the process of animal care services and the release of animals. He asked if the Office of Innovation had been engaged in providing services for community animal care services. Sims stated that Animal Care Services had worked closely with the Office of Innovation in the offering of services and adjustments to customer service and animal welfare.

Councilmember Pelaez asked if there were available tax benefits for veterinary clinics to partner with the City for Spay/Neuter services. Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez stated that staff would look into possible grants and funding options for tax credits.

Councilmember Bravo stated that he was pleased with the community meetings conducted and asked for the status of allocation of approved funding for spay/neuter partners. Sims stated that partnerships and veterinary networks had been researched and that staff was working with newly certified

veterinarians who could be contracted to offer those services. Councilmember Bravo expressed concern on when services were provided to include weekends for spay/neuter services to the community. Sims stated that veterinary services were provided seven days a week.

Councilmember Bravo asked for details on expanded spay/neuter services at the Brackenridge facility. Sims stated that the new vendor at the location would increase to 65,000 operations per year. Councilmember Bravo asked how dangerous dog issues were being addressed in the community. Sims stated that staff included a Dangerous Dog Manager position which included investigations of dangerous dog incidents on a proactive and reactive basis.

No action was required for Item 2.

Items 3 and 4 were taken together.

3. **Briefing on the City of San Antonio's Fire Activity Statistics for FY 2022** [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; Charles N. Hood, Chief of Fire]
4. **Briefing on the San Antonio Police Department Crime Statistics for Calendar Year 2022** [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Fire Chief Charles Hood provided a briefing on the City of San Antonio Fire Activity Statistics for FY 2022. He noted that there were increases in incident reporting that included increases in medical incidents (35%) and non-medical incidents (97%). He stated that there were also increased in Fire Unity and responses (65%) and EMS Unity Responses (18%). Hood noted that working structure fires included by 32% and reviewed the number of fire incidents by month and Council Districts. He reviewed statistics for fire fatalities, unhoused individuals fire incidents, vacant house fire incidents and grass fire incidents. Hood noted that an Unsafe Structure Program had been developed.

Assistant Police Chief Karen Falks provided an overview of the FBI Crime Reporting requirements and crime statistics for FY 2022. She noted that historical data had been collected under the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in January 2021 and allowed the SAPD to gather and provide more comprehensive data for crime incidents to the FBI. Falks noted that NIBRS data included offenses classified as Group A or Group B crimes. She noted that Group A offenses were the more serious crimes and noted that there was an 11% increase in these crimes during January to October 2022. These crimes included crimes against person, crimes against society and crimes against property categories.

Falks provided an update on the Micro Hot Spot Initiative which was comprised of 7 block acres with at least five violent crimes in a three month period and included a focused SAPD presence to address issues in coordination with other City departments and neighborhoods. She noted that over 60 hot spots had been addressed and were able to reduce crime in 19 of the 23 enforced areas with a total of a 52% decrease in crime in those areas.

DISCUSSION

Chair Cabello Havrda asked Falks what factors were used to identify crime hot spots. Falks reviewed

the violent crimes that were reviewed and if five or more incidents occurred in those areas they would be considered hot spots.

Councilmember Pelaez noted the success of the Hot Spot Program and asked if the hot spot areas only included SAPD incidents and no other enforcement agencies. Falks confirmed that only SAPD incidents were included in the reporting.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked for more details on the Unsafe Structure Program. Hood stated that the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) worked closely with the Development Services Department and the Office of Historic Preservation to identify unsafe structures and then coordinate safely securing the structures and addressing code issues for those structures.

Councilmember Pelaez asked if a population growth analysis had been conducted to identify incidents and reporting. Hood noted that there was an increase in incidents in downtown areas and in some of the newly growth areas for both SAPD and SAFD. Councilmember Pelaez asked for data/report on population growth or increased density in relation to crime incidents. Assistant City Manager Maria Villagomez stated that data would be provided to the Committee.

Councilmember Bravo asked when incidents were investigated for arson. Hood provided clarification on how incidents were identified for suspicious circumstances or unsafe conditions and the steps taken during fire incidents to determine if arson was possible.

Councilmember Bravo asked if the NIBRS system was more useful to identify the true status of crimes and if other cities used it. Falks stated that NIBRS allowed SAPD to provide the FBI pertinent data and that she could not confirm what other cities used for reporting.

Councilmember Viagran stated that she was interested in grass fire incidents in her council district and asked for additional data on fall prevention programs.

Councilmember Viagran requested data on domestic violence and homicide incidents and if correlations existed between them. She also asked for more specific data on stolen property incidents in order to inform residents of increased issues. She requested data on street racing crimes.

Councilmember Pelaez noted that car theft incidents had occurred and asked when SAPD responded to such incidents. Falks stated that SAPD would investigate all incidents and would meet with the Councilmember to gather information on any incidents that he had concerns about.

Councilmember Bravo asked if resident reporting had been a reason for increased crime numbers. Falks stated that there was an increase in crime reporting due to increase home security technology and she encouraged residents to report all incidents.

Chair Cabello Havrda thanked staff for the briefings and the services provided to the community.

No action was required for Items 3 and 4.

5. Briefing and possible action on the submission and acceptance of a Texas Department of

Transportation DWI traffic enforcement grant called Impaired Driving Mobilization [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Deputy Police Chief Richard Blanton provided an overview on the submission and acceptance of a Texas Department of Transportation (TXDoT) DWI traffic enforcement grant called Impaired Driving Mobilization. He noted that the grant was for \$50,000 and reviewed the services provided by the grant which supplemented DWI prevention services.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked how long had the SAPD received the grant. Blanton stated that the grant had been received for the past five years. Chair Cabello Havrda asked if the grant had assisted in reducing DWI incidents. Blanton noted that there had initially been a decrease especially during the COVID outbreak period. Chair Cabello Havrda asked that staff work with the Municipal Court Offices.

Councilmember Pelaez asked why the grant had to come to the Committee for approval. Assistant Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez stated that any grant had to be approved by City Council. First Assistant City Attorney Elizabeth Provencio stated that State Law allowed the City Manager approval of agreements up to \$50,000. Assistant City Manager Villagomez stated that staff would review the requirement for lower monetary grants requirement to be brought to the Committee for approval. Chair Cabello Havrda supported the review of the requirement.

Councilmember Viagran expressed her support of the Item and noted that the cooperation between the City and TXDoT needed to be highlighted and communicated through the Communications and Engagement Department.

Councilmember Pelaez moved to Approve. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Cabello Havrda, Viagran, Pelaez, Bravo
Absent: McKee-Rodriguez

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Chair Cabello Havrda adjourned the meeting at 11:01 PM.

Approved

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk