

City of San Antonio



Minutes Public Safety Committee

2023 – 2025 Council Members

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6, Chair
Dr. Sukh Kaur, Dist. 1 | Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2
Marina Alderete Gavito, Dist. 7 | Marc Whyte, Dist. 10

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

9:30 AM

City Hall Complex

The Public Safety Committee convened a regular meeting in the City Hall Council Briefing Room beginning at 9:33 AM. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

Members Present: Melissa Cabello Havrda, *Chair*
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*
Marc Whyte, *Member*
Dr. Sukh Kaur, *Member*
Marina Alderete Gavito, *Member*

Members Absent: None

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from the June 20, 2023 Public Safety Committee Meeting

Councilmember Kaur moved to Approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023 Public Safety Committee Meeting. Councilmember Alderete Gavito seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Cabello Havrda, Kaur, Alderete Gavito
Absent: McKee-Rodriguez, Whyte

Briefing on

2. Overview of the Public Safety Committee. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager]

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez stated that the City Council Committees served as advisory bodies of the City Council whereby Councilmembers initiated and oversaw the development of City policy. Deputy City Manager Villagomez listed frequent topics and noted that the departments that typically presented to the Public Safety Committee included: San Antonio Police Department (SAPD), San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD), Metro Health, Animal Care Services and Municipal Court.

Chair Cabello Havrda commented that the Committee held its meetings at the SAPD and SAFD training academies at least once per year so the Committee could tour the facilities. Chair Cabello Havrda mentioned that the Bexar County District Attorney and other levels of the Court System also presented to the Public Safety Committee. She added that street lighting was also a topic that the Committee reviewed.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez noted that he has scrutinized the funding and work of SAPD due to historic over policing of Black and low-income communities. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez mentioned that housing and economic development as well as street lighting were also components of public safety.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito stated that last week, a City employee was walking her dog and a loose dog went after them and the owner of the loose dog got into their vehicle and chased the couple as well. She wanted to raise awareness of the need for oversight and reporting of Animal Care Services.

Councilmember Kaur asked if there was any opportunity for the Committee to help support in a crisis and mentioned a fire in her council district.

Item was for briefing only so no action was taken.

3. Briefing on the Fire Accreditation Process and Strategic Plan. [Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager; Charles Hood, Fire Chief]

Chief of SAFD, Charles Hood, provided handouts of the Commission on Fire Protection Accreditation International (CFAI) Report. Hood explained that SAFD was a Class 1 Insurance Services Office (ISO) accreditation which meant that SAFD had the resources and infrastructure to serve the City. Hood noted that San Antonio was the 2nd largest metro city to hold both designations and only 13% of the cities in the United States were CFAI accredited.

Hood stated that the CFAI verified service levels and considered all aspects of SAFD within three documents: a strategic plan, a community risk assessment/standards of cover, and a self-assessment manual. He noted that the new Plan replaced the 2018 Plan and identified changes needed, identified the communities' expectations, defined the programs provided to the community and established the community's prioritized view of the programs.

Hood described the process undertaken with 40 stakeholders that included a review of the mission

statement and values, as well as goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan. He outlined the performance measures and core competencies achieved within the 250 criteria outlined in the accreditation process. The power point presentation and report provided to the Committee would be attached to the minutes.

Chair Cabello Havrda thanked SAFD for their work and asked if the accreditation was through a government or private entity. Hood stated that CFAI was a trade association that was a part of the International City Manager's Association (ICMA). He explained that the ISO rating was also a trade organization that reviewed community infrastructure and assets such as fire hydrants sufficient for the size of population, as well as SAFD equipment.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked whether there was money in the FY2024 Proposed Budget to ensure that SAFD had enough equipment. Deputy City Manager Villagomez reported that a new fire truck/apparatus along with the crew was in the two year Budget forecast for FY2025. Hood commented that the accreditation process provided the information needed to plan for future SAFD needs. Chair Cabello Havrda requested that a map overlay of the planning zones with the council districts be sent to the full City Council.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito asked if there was coordination between SAFD and Public Works for speed bumps. Hood stated that speed bumps and gates on a community slowed response time so they worked with the developers and Public Works.

Councilmember Kaur asked whether the density map was correlated with the equity score. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) managed the Equity Atlas and it was based on income and demographics. She noted that lower income areas and minority populations resulted in a higher score on the Equity Atlas. Hood explained that response times were the same citywide but the density map indicated the number of calls. Councilmember Kaur requested an overlay of the incident calls/responses with the equity map.

Councilmember Kaur recommended review of the VIA Metropolitan Transit Advanced Rapid Transit (ART) to ensure SAFD could still get through the street.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez mentioned the closure of Texas Vista Hospital on the south side of San Antonio and noted that the east side did not have a hospital and requested analysis of transport times because they had to travel to the Medical Center on the north side. Hood stated that an ambulance unit had been added to the south side so that units would not constantly be out of service due to transporting patients rather than responding to incidents. Deputy City Manager Villagomez noted that response times were not impacted by the closure of the hospital or lack of a nearby hospital but the transport time extension did require more resources including ambulance units.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested clarification on response time. Hood stated that the response time was calculated from the time the person called and the time a first responder arrived, even if more units came later such as in a large fire. Hood noted that having proper

equipment on every until was critical. Deputy City Manager Villagomez noted that the document contained definitions of all terms and charts for the calculations.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked if there were areas across the City that had longer response times and recommended review. Deputy City Manager Villagomez reported that SAFD planned to perform an equipment and staffing needs assessment. Hood concluded that although each fire station was strategically placed, the system was resilient and could accommodate needs in all areas of the City. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez supported a review of SAFD's needs.

Item was for briefing only so no action was taken.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session held.

Consideration of items for future meetings

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk