

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 | Clayton Perry, Dist. 10

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza - B Room

The Public Safety Committee convened a regular meeting in the Municipal Plaza Building at 2:05 PM. 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*
Ana Sandoval, *Member*
Clayton Perry, *Member*

Members Absent: Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from the August 16, 2022 Public Safety Committee Meeting

Councilmember Perry moved to Approve the minutes from the August 16, 2022 Public Safety Committee meeting. Councilmember Sandoval seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. Briefing and possible action on San Antonio Police Department Grant awards [Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

- A. U.S. Department of Justice grant to Support the Child Welfare Strategic Alliance Program in an amount up to \$359,806.00 and authorizing a local agreement with Bexar County regarding the distribution of grant funds and the designation of Bexar County as the grant fiscal agent.
- B. Comprehensive Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in an amount not to exceed \$843,000.00.

Chair Cabello Havrda introduced the Item and invited San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) Chief William McManus to provide an overview of the Child Welfare Strategic Alliance grant which was a partnership with San Antonio ChildSafe including the work provided by the Detectives funded by the grant who participated in every aspect of criminal investigation into crimes against children. McManus provided the funding amount and a timeline for consideration of the grant which was anticipated for September 29, 2022.

McManus provided background on the SAPD Traffic Unit and outlined the STEP Grant metrics which provided overtime for 14,000 enforcement hours. He noted that the locations for enforcement were established by the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT). Chief McManus provided the funding amount and matching funds as well as a timeline for consideration of the grant which was anticipated for September 29, 2022.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Cabello Havrda noted that sex crimes against children were especially heinous and stated that she had visited ChildSafe and commented that it was a welcoming location. She requested more information on the trauma informed training. Captain Rene Gallegos, Special Victims Unit Commander, explained that there was special interview training on Family Violence and Sexual Assault as trauma caused victims to have limited recollections initially.

Chair Cabello Havrda requested information about outreach events for the STEP Grant and suggested a way to show people how just one drink impacted a driver's abilities. Captain Starnes, Traffic Unit Commander, replied that the focus was on drunk driving awareness and outreach to teen drivers through interactive methods.

Councilmember Sandoval requested information on other funding for Traffic Enforcement. Starnes stated that the STEP grant was targeted with data on locations, and there were other programs such as "Click It or Ticket" and a special awareness campaign for drunk driving, as well as outreach for distracted driving but he would need to provide the dollar amounts for each grant in a report.

Councilmember Sandoval commented that there was a statewide ban on texting while driving and

noted that the STEP Grant enforcement numbers went down drastically in the presentation, but she thought there might still be more issues with this based on her own observations. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that SAPD would provide information on all traffic enforcement metrics.

Councilmember Perry requested a report regarding the 9,000 Child Welfare cases that were investigated showing the number that were prosecuted and convicted.

Councilmember Perry commented that he had received many complaints about speeding, distracted driving, seatbelt, child restraint and moving violations in his council district and questioned the numbers presented showing the downward trend for the STEP Grant. Deputy City Manager Villagomez confirmed that more data would be provided.

Councilmember Viagran asked for information about the number of children being served with Bexar County Funding and the timeline for approval of funding by Bexar County. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that Bexar County was waiting on City Council approval of the grant and staff would request the information.

Councilmember Viagran requested clarification on the metrics provided for the STEP Grant. Chief McManus stated that the chart reflected only numbers from the STEP Grant and they would provide information on the other programs. Councilmember Viagran expressed concern about street racing.

Councilmember Perry moved to Approve. Councilmember Sandoval seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Cabello Havrda, Viagran, Sandoval, Perry

Absent: McKee-Rodriguez

3. Briefing and possible action on update on Resiliency Hubs and City's Hazard Mitigation Plan [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; Charles N. Hood, Fire Chief]

San Antonio Fire Department Deputy Chief Bryan Norris presented background and an update on the Resilience Hubs & Hazard Mitigation Plan. He stated that Resilience Hubs were familiar, trusted, and community serving facilities that would support residents, bring value to the area and coordinate resource distribution and services before, during and after a disaster. He noted that the facilities served the community 99% of the time and focused on disasters or emergencies only about 1% of the time.

Norris listed the four recommended locations in each of four quadrants of the City as a result of extensive community feedback including a SA SpeakUP Survey which found that 71% of the community supported the following locations: Southside Lions, Normoyle Senior Center, Northeast Senior Center and Garza Community Center. He provided a timeline of significant next steps which included the City Council approval for generators to be installed at the Resilience Hubs.

Norris provided background on the Hazard Mitigation Plan which was adopted by City Council in October 2021 with amendments that included a winter weather hazard profile, hazard ranking, climate change integration and more community engagement. He provided a timeline of significant next steps which included the City Council approval of the plan and a revision every five years.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Cabello Havrda expressed concern that there was not a Resilience Hub on the far west side with a concern about Edgewood and the Virginia Gill Area. Norris replied that this was a first start and there was a partnership with VIA for public transit to help get residents to the Hubs. Chair Cabello Havrda commented that participation in Council Districts 4, 5, and 6 was low which might be why the westside did not have a Hub. Chair Cabello Havrda recommended additional funding to create more Resilience Hubs once the initial Plan has been implemented.

Chair Cabello Havrda was surprised to see wildfire as a large risk. Norris stated that this year, because it had been so dry, wildfires increased and were higher for the North Side and Government Canyon State Park.

Councilmember Sandoval requested clarification on what City Council approval was needed for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Norris stated that approval was needed for the amendments but that the immediate council action was to approve the locations of the four Resilience Hubs.

Councilmember Sandoval understood that the locations were limited to what was available and requested a timeline for the Plan for rest of the Resilience Hubs and emergency power such as adding solar to the Garza Center. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the City would hire a consultant in 2023 to develop a Resiliency Plan with City Council input. Councilmember Sandoval asked where the natural gas would come from for the Generators. Norris confirmed that Public Works was overseeing the design of the gas lines for the generators.

Councilmember Viagran expressed support for the Resilience Hubs including improving the first four locations and adding more Hubs but recommended more community dialogue in both English and Spanish regarding why people would not use them.

Councilmember Viagran suggested more planning for high risk situations within the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Norris stated that cascading events were difficult to deal with, but the Plan focused on prevention. Deputy City Manager Villagomez mentioned that the ranking was based on historical events. Councilmember Viagran commented that the wildfires in the Southern Sector this summer was a concern.

Councilmember Perry expressed concern that there was no Resiliency Hub on the North Side and recommended a closer look at the spacing of the Hubs. Councilmember Perry asked for a list of the locations of the cooling centers and a report on the usage. He commented that the cost for four Hubs was \$1 million that would only pay for the generators and he wanted to ensure that the Hubs were utilized. Norris stated that the full extent of what was included in a Resiliency Hub would have to be determined through community dialogue. Deputy City Manager Villagomez mentioned that the entire design of a Resiliency Hub was not complete.

Chair Cabello Havrda requested clarification on how the department would coordinate the community engagement.

Councilmember Perry recommended a standard prototype facility for a Resiliency Hub and not leave it up to the community. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that a standard plan would be developed and provided to the City Council.

Councilmember Sandoval moved to Approve. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Cabello Havrda, Viagran, Perry

Absent: McKee-Rodriguez, Sandoval

4. Briefing on San Antonio Police Department procurements. [Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez provided background on the Item as it was related to the replacement of existing equipment. San Antonio Police Department Chief McManus provided an overview of the rationale for selecting the Smith and Wesson 9mm as the standard duty handgun, he added that officers would be allowed to purchase their weapon and those not purchased would be destroyed and officers would be required to attend an 8 hour training before they could carry the new handguns. McManus provided the cost to the City for the handguns minus the revenue from the Officer Purchase Program.

McManus described the current vehicle mounted system that supported officer safety, encouraged lawful and respectful interaction, fostered accountability and provided videos for investigations. He noted that the user interface was difficult for officers to enter data, required manual labeling of the videos, and the new system would be a cloud based option that automatically labeled the video and provided wireless video uploading.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Cabello Havrda recommended that officers had the opportunity to weigh-in on the cloud system. McManus stated that the SAPD tech team had provided input.

Councilmember Viagran supported the cloud storage of videos and was glad to hear that officers were able to provide input from the user perspective. Councilmember Viagran asked for a breakdown of the cost for the new substations related to the video upload.

Councilmember Perry asked why San Antonio was the only major City that still used a 40 caliber handgun. McManus stated that the handguns were 10 years old and that standard had been updated to 9mm. Councilmember Perry asked if the guns not purchased by the officers were sold in the past. Deputy Chief Robert Blanton replied that in 2013 they sold the guns through a broker. Councilmember Perry asked for a report on the cost of destruction versus the amount of revenue that could be gained if the guns were sold.

Councilmember Perry asked for more information about the Cloud system versus the current

system. Chief Information Officer Craig Hopkins stated that the vehicle collected data during the day and uploaded it at the end of the day and were housed on City servers which the officers had to go back into and name them. With the new system, the uploads would be auto-tagged and stored in the Cloud by a vendor with ready access. Councilmember Perry asked if it could be done by the City and whether the new system could provide real-time video. Hopkins stated that the full cloud system was cheaper to install but was the same cost over time. Councilmember Perry requested a comparison of the long-term costs for each system. Captain Jesse Salame added that the potential for real-time review of video was available but it would be costly and would need to have approval from the Police Union.

Chair Cabello Havrda noted that the Item was for briefing only, so no action was needed.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Consideration of items for future meetings

Chair Caballo Havrda commented that there would be one meeting of the Committee held in October.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Chair Cabello Havrda adjourned the meeting at 3:20 PM.

Approved

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk