

# 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

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**Tuesday, March 19, 2024**

**9:30 AM**

**City Hall Complex**

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The Public Safety Committee convened a regular meeting in the City Hall Council Briefing Room beginning at 9:37 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*  
Dr. Sukh Kaur, *Member*  
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*  
Marina Alderete Gavito, *Member*

**Members Absent:** None

### Approval of Minutes

#### 1. Approval of minutes from the February 20, 2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting

Councilmember Alderete Gavito moved to Approve the minutes of the February 20, 2024 Public Safety Committee meeting. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

### Briefing and Possible Action on

**2. Briefing and possible action on proposed ordinance amendment to regulate the overnight parking of oversized commercial vehicles on non-residential public streets.** [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

William McManus, Chief of the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD), provided background on the different laws pertaining to parking including State Transportation Code Section 545.307, the Unified Development Code (UDC) 35-383, and Municipal Code Section 19-19(a). He stated that State Transportation Code Section 545.307 made it a Class C Misdemeanor to park a commercial vehicle (gross weight over 26,000 pounds) in or near a residential subdivision between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. McManus added that the State Transportation Code was enforced by SAPD.

McManus reported that UDC Section 35-383 prohibited the parking of oversized vehicles within the restricted parking area (front yard of property) in residential districts and was enforced by Code Enforcement. He noted that Municipal Code Section 19-19(a) was enforced by SAPD and the Center City Downtown Operations (CCDO) Department Parking Division and prohibited the parking of an oversized vehicle in front of any lot, parcel or street used solely for residential use in residential districts.

McManus stated that in 2022 there was a spike in enforcement due to complaints regarding oversized parking noting that 649 citations were issued for violation of the Municipal Code. He reported that the Cities of San Antonio and Austin both restricted parking only in residential areas, however, the Cities of Houston and Dallas prohibited overnight parking on all public streets. He indicated that in September 2023, SAPD proposed an Ordinance that would restrict oversized commercial vehicle parking between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. McManus stated that over 400 informational mailers had been sent out and two meetings were hosted.

McManus displayed a map of available commercial vehicle overnight parking lots that cost an average of \$15 per day or \$200 per month. He stated that SAPD conducted an impact analysis of the proposed Ordinance which would prohibit parking in 401 square miles of the City which was currently prohibited in only 210 square miles.

McManus stated that SAPD's recommendation was to amend Chapter 19, Article VI, Section 19-194(H) of the Municipal Code which was expected to be brought before the City Council in April 2024 with signage being installed in September 2024 and the Ordinance becoming effective and enforceable on October 1, 2024. He reported that the proposed changes would include adding a new section to Chapter 19-194 of the Municipal City Code restricting oversized vehicle parking within 1,000 feet from residential-zoned areas between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., except when actively loading and unloading and when making emergency repairs.

## **DISCUSSION**

Chair Cabello Havrda thanked Chief McManus, Councilmember Pelaez, and members of the public who came to the meeting, however, she expressed concern with the number of people who attended the two public meetings and asked what happened at the meetings. McManus stated that mailers were sent to 400 people and only four people showed up to the two public meetings.

Joe Frank Picazo, Assistant to the Police Chief, who attended the public meetings stated that alternative parking options and the impact of the Ordinance were discussed. Chair Cabello Havrda stated that not only truckers, but community members also, did not respect bike lanes unless they were protected with a median so adding a bike lane would not preclude parking.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked how many oversized commercial vehicles there were in San Antonio and how many overnight parking spaces existed. Riggy's Truck Service Owner, David Olson, stated that there were 2,379 small carriers with 1 to 19 trucks located within a 25-mile radius of San Antonio; larger carriers tended to have their own overnight parking lots. Olson stated that there were 8-10 locations currently available for parking. Chair Cabello Havrda recommended taking an inventory of the parking spaces.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked how many citations had been issued in the past year by both SAPD and Code Enforcement. Deputy City Manager, Maria Villagomez stated that 425 citations were issued. Chair Cabello Havrda requested the results in the Cities of Houston and Dallas when they implemented their laws. Chair Cabello Havrda expressed concern that most of the public comments were regarding school children or small business concerns, but the Ordinance focused only on overnight hours. Deputy City Manager Villagomez clarified that most of the trucks were parked overnight for days so they impacted the businesses. Chair Cabello Havrda questioned what stopped them from parking only during the day and suggested expansion of the prohibited times.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito thanked Councilmember Pelaez for spearheading the CCR. She stated that the Home Depot on Cambray Drive was a significant area where the trucks parked, and it obstructed the view of motorists causing accidents in the area and requested more information on that area. She also requested the impact in other cities and asked why trucking companies did not have designated areas for their truck drivers to park. Olson responded that independent owners/carriers often contracted with larger companies and were responsible for their own parking. Olson mentioned that commercial truck drivers could exceed their maximum allotted drive time which meant that if they drove during the time out period, they could lose their Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

Councilmember Alderete Gavito asked why SAPD was not making the oversized vehicle parking an all-day restriction since many safety concerns happened during the day and expressed concern that not all areas of the City were covered. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that instead of restricting the entire city, there were some non-residential areas excluded and the timing was meant to cover those parking for days at a time.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez commented that there were many trucks that parked in Council District 2 as it had been made into a mostly industrial area. He stated that residents spent their evenings watching their neighborhoods as trucks were blocking their driveways and neighborhood streets and asked how enforcement would be different under the new Ordinance than the current Municipal Code.

McManus stated that the Ordinance would give Police Officers another tool to enforce the rules and he encouraged residents to report violations so that SAPD could give the vehicle a citation.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked how much it cost to rent a space compared to the cost for the ticket and expressed concern that truckers were small businesses. Olsen responded that there was one new lot planned on the corner of Lancer and Foster Rd S. off of Loop 410 and his company would look at other locations that had the appropriate zoning. Councilmember McKee- Rodriguez stated that Councilmembers would need to ensure they allowed these lots to be built in their areas so they did not all wind up on the east and south sides of town. He recommended further discussion on the issue.

Councilmember Kaur asked whether the trucking companies had shared the meeting notice with their drivers. McManus stated that SAPD did not know whether they informed their drivers. Councilmember Kaur agreed there was a need for more discussion.

Chair Cabello Havrda commented that the industry was driving the need for more truck parking and suggested connecting the Ordinance with human trafficking.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to have the issue briefed to City Council at B Session in April 2024. Chair Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Cabello Havrda, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Alderete Gavito

3. **Briefing on the Integrated Community Safety Office (ICSO) that addresses the City Council Request (CCR) from Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requesting the establishment of an Office of Crime and Recidivism Prevention.** [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; Maria Vargas, Director, Integrated Community Safety Office]

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez introduced the Item and provided background on the CCR issued by Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez in January 2022 requesting the establishment of an Office of Crime & Recidivism Prevention. She stated that the Governance Committee referred the CCR to the Public Safety Committee in December 2022 and the Public Safety Committee discussed the CCR in September 2023. Deputy City Manager Villagomez reported that on February 20, 2024, the City Manager sent a memorandum to the Public Safety Committee regarding the Integrated Community Safety Office (ICSO) that had been created. This correspondence provided a summary of several initiatives taken over the past year that address the CCR.

Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the ISCO was an eight-member team, including four new positions added in FY 2024, led by Director Maria Vargas. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the mission of the ISCO included: evaluating how City programs positively impacted crime reduction; developing an inventory of programs that the City, other government agencies, and non-profit organizations currently provided to address recidivism in our community; seeking grant opportunities for the City to support and implement new initiatives targeting crime prevention and recidivism; coordinating with Metro Health, Police, and other City departments, and outside stakeholders. She noted that in addition, the ISCO would monitor the implementation of the following activities: City's Violence Prevention Strategic Plan, Violent Crime Reduction Plan, Good

Neighbor Program (GNP), perform public safety data analysis, and evaluate the Neighborhood Safety Program.

Vargas stated that her office was developing a fully automated dashboard of public safety data to increase analysis and transparency and she reported on the other initiatives. She stated that the GNP process was being refined and the City's Violence Prevention Strategic Plan led by Metro Health was currently collecting data and seeking grant support. She reported that the Violent Crime Reduction Plan led by SAPD had developed a working group and Public Safety Project Support included: Cadet Immersion Program (CIP), RMS Vendor Consultation, and a Patrol Time Management Dashboard.

#### DISCUSSION:

Chair Cabello Havrda recognized the author of the CCR, Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez, who spoke in support of the ICSO to focus on crime and recidivism prevention.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito thanked Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez for the CCR and the City Manager's Office for their work. She asked whether the ICSO would be a long-term permanent part of the City organization and asked which crimes tended to have the highest recidivism rates. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the ICSO was a permanent department and would analyze data and bring the information back to the Committee regularly.

Councilmember Kaur supported the ICSO noting that it was a step in the right direction to help analyze the data. Vargas stated that there was originally only one Data Analyst position authorized, so they recommended automation which required not only a Senior Analyst but also a Junior Analyst to help produce effective reports and evaluations. Councilmember Kaur asked if the data dashboard would have any analysis capabilities or would that be in the written report. Vargas stated that the dashboard would only include descriptive statistics and the written report would be in Spanish because the dashboard could not be translated. However, Vargas added, the data could be downloaded by students and researchers for further analysis. Councilmember Kaur recommended user testing of the dashboard with users of different ages and education levels. Councilmember Kaur asked if ICSO would monitor the GNP. Vargas stated that Councilmembers could contact ICSO if they needed to connect to the GNP.

The Item was for briefing only so no action was taken.

#### **4. Briefing by Metro Health on the City's domestic violence programs and highlights from the Collaborative Commission on Domestic Violence 2022 Annual Statistical Report.**

[Erik Walsh, City Manager; Claude A. Jacob, Director, Health]

Deputy City Manager, Maria Villagomez introduced the Item and highlighted a statistical report from the 150th District Court.

Erica Haller-Stevenson, Violence Prevention Administrator with Metro Health, stated that there were nine city departments working together to tackle domestic violence through a comprehensive approach that included assistance to individuals, grants to help organizations,

prevention strategies, and a shift from law enforcement to a victim-centered and a public health approach.

Haller-Stevenson reported that SAPD addressed domestic violence with the Crisis Response Team (CRT), the Special Victims Unit (SVU), the Family Assistance Crisis Team (FACT), and Handle with Care. She indicated that the Police Academy hours on family violence were double of the State requirement and ongoing training included sexual assault, domestic violence, and family violence. She reported on the number of calls for family violence last year and compared reports filed over the past four years which had increased overall, but homicides had declined since their peak in 2020. Haller-Stevenson stated that Metro Health had increased availability of Crisis Advocates and Case Managers, as well as other community strategies. Haller-Stevenson noted that The City Attorney's Office had a role in this process as they prosecuted Class C misdemeanor cases including family violence which included interventions such as community services, fines, and court costs which were handled in Municipal Court. She added that The Department of Human Services provided comprehensive direct and contractual services that helped build protective factor against domestic violence and opportunities for intervention.

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez stated that the Collaborative Commission on Domestic Violence (CCDV) was formed in 2019 by Bexar County Judge Peter Sakai to cohesively repair, solidify, and improve the complex domestic violence response and intervention system. She indicated that the goal of the CCDV was to operate within a larger domestic violence ecosystem to create a seamless, accessible system with multiple entry points to help ensure our community's response to domestic violence. Deputy City Manager Villagomez introduced Judge Monique Diaz who was co-chair of the CCDV along with herself.

Deputy City Manager Villagomez provided the 2022 Annual Statistical Report from the CCDV which noted that there was a large community need for assessment and services and stated that the family violence reports had increased since 2020. Judge Diaz reviewed the data by noting that there had been over 1,600 protective orders issued in 2022 in connection with almost 10,000 initial bookings which resulted in 2,521 indictments. Diaz stated that 20,949 individuals were assisted.

Diaz stated that the CCDV was currently working on its fourth-year progress report which would be released in April 2024 and recommended presenting the report to the Committee later in the year.

## DISCUSSION:

Chair Cabello Havrda recognized the team for their work but suggested that there was room for improvement in the domestic violence arena and a need to keep a focus on the impact of the CCDV and delegate agencies to help identify gaps. She requested a historical analysis over the past four years and clarification on standard offers for defendants as well as crisis advocacy services. Chair Cabello Havrda supported more education for victims of domestic violence as well as the perpetrators.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez supported the collaborative work of the team and recommended addressing historical root causes of crime so that the approach could be shifted

from law enforcement to a community approach. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked if there was an estimate of the number of domestic violence incidents that went unreported. San Antonio P.E.A.C.E Initiative Executive Director Patricia Castillo, stated that three out of 10 cases typically went unreported. She expressed concern with the new Texas Law under Senate Bill 4 (SB4) which had the potential to cause immigrants to stop reporting and therefore become “perfect victims.” Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked how the lack of reporting could be combatted. Castillo stated that it was crucial for the different organizations to work together to make reporting safe and educational efforts needed to be intergenerational including prevention services targeting school-age children. Castillo added that the Positive Parenting Program was an excellent model.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez expressed concern that 2024 advocacy targets had been set lower than 2022 targets and 2023 actuals and asked if that was due to budget constraints. He requested more information about how these targets were established.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito thanked the team for working together and asked how San Antonio ranked in comparison to other large cities in Texas. Haller-Stevenson stated that San Antonio used to have the highest incidents of domestic violence in the state and noted that San Antonio covered a large geographic area, but we had made improvements, and was listed as the third highest. Councilmember Alderete Gavito asked why the advocacy targets for 2024 were set at lower than 2023. Haller-Stevenson stated that the targets were set before the actuals were known which is why they were near the 2022 targets.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito requested information on how the Municipal Court strategies impacted recidivism. Municipal Court Presiding Judge Carla Obledo stated that they did not have the data but worked directly with individuals to improve outcomes and were doing a case study analysis.

Councilmember Kaur thanked the commission for their work and the collaboration between entities. She requested data on recidivism and the effectiveness of the services received to help inform the City Council on where resources were most needed. Councilmember Kaur clarified that the statistics were only for Bexar County and asked which organizations provided the specific intervention services. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that she would take the request back to the CCDV for outcomes and get a list of who provided the services. Haller-Stevenson stated that crime victim’s compensation was a Federally funded State program which could be accessed through non-profits as well as SAPD and Metro Health, however, counseling was a looser network of providers.

Councilmember Kaur asked if there was additional funding anticipated in the FY2025 Proposed Budget for this effort. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that funding priorities would need to be discussed at the City Council Goal Setting meeting and a report would also be made to Bexar County Commissioner’s Court later this month.

Chair Cabello Havrda recommended reaching out to the medical community and PreK 4 SA, and suggested an online list of resources. Castillo reported that there was a new online resource in English and Spanish.

The Item was for briefing only so no action was taken.

5. **Briefing by the Animal Care Services (ACS) Department on the Strategic Plan initiatives for FY 2024.** [David W. McCary, Assistant City Manager; Shannon Sims, Director, Animal Care Services]

Due to time constraints, Chair Cabello Havrda announced that the Item would be moved to the next Public Safety Committee meeting agenda.

#### **Consent**

#### **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 11:29 a.m.

**Approved**

*Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair*

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*Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk*

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