



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: {{item.number}}

Agenda Date: November 27, 2023

In Control: Public Safety Committee

DEPARTMENT: Police Department and Fire Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: William McManus, Chief of Police and Charles Hood, Fire Chief

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Holiday Safety Tips

SUMMARY:

Police Department

Throughout the year, the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) works closely with the business community, neighborhoods and various community stakeholders to provide programs, information and services designed to promote public safety and minimize the risk of victimization. During the holiday season, the Department focuses its outreach efforts on educating residents on strategies and practices to avoid being a victim of certain types of crimes that are most prevalent during this time of year.

In addition to SAFFE disseminating this information directly to the community at neighborhood association meetings and other community events, the Department also creates videos and public service announcements via traditional media and its social media platforms.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Charles Hood will be giving a presentation that will provide recommendations for staying healthy and safe during the upcoming holiday season, as well as to provide the Public Safety Committee with an outline of the media plan to be used for dissemination of that information to members of the public.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Police Department

During the holiday season, which spans from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, there is heightened risk of being the victim of certain types of crimes to include:

- Vehicle Theft and Vehicle Break-ins
 - The Department encourages individuals shopping at stores to remain cognizant of their surroundings by avoiding cell phone when walking in parking lots and parking in well-lit areas.
 - Make certain that all valuables are either removed from the vehicle or hidden out of plain view and the vehicle is locked.
- Driving
 - Do not drink and drive
 - Make plans to either have a sober ride home or to use a taxi or rideshare app
- Porch Thefts and Home Burglaries
 - If an individual is expecting a package delivery, notify a family member or neighbor in the event you are not home at the time of delivery
 - Properly dispose of boxes by cutting them up so that burglars cannot see what items or gifts may have been recently purchased.
 - Do not set up Christmas trees or holiday gifts in areas where they are visible through windows or doors
 - Avoid leaving doors, windows and garages open or unlocked and keep the exterior of your home well-lit.
 - If you see suspicious individuals in your neighborhood or on your street, report it to the San Antonio Police Department

In recognition of the increased incidences of criminal activity during the holiday season, each year the San Antonio Police Department mobilizes the Holiday Crime Reduction Taskforce from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day which is comprised of multiple SAPD units as well as state law enforcement partners. The Taskforce works proactively with the business community, and other locations, that may be susceptible to increased criminal activity to implement strategies that minimize the risk of victimization. These efforts include data-driven initiatives to identify and apprehend criminals responsible for a significant amount of the crime being committed.

The SAPD is also partnering with KSAT to conduct a Financial Scams Online Townhall on Tuesday, November 28 to discuss online shopping protection, credit card protection, and fraudulent organizations scamming people during the holiday season. Detectives assigned to Financial Crimes will provide live interviews to educate the public on how to avoid becoming victims of financial crimes.

As always, the public is encouraged to contact the Department to report suspicious or suspected criminal activity. The SAPD remains committed to protecting the community and ultimately it is the continued partnership between the Department and the community that will help ensure that San Antonio remains safe.

The Police Department will be reviewing with the Public Safety Committee its plan to provide this important information to the community. The information provided to the public is available in English and Spanish.

Fire Department

The holiday season is a time to enjoy our favorite holiday traditions, celebrating around the table, and making new memories with friends and family. To ensure that the festivities are both happy and safe we must remain extra vigilant, especially when it comes to cooking and baking, setting up the Christmas tree and decorating or using heaters, candles and fireplaces. The SAFD has developed a media and messaging plan to ensure effective dissemination of holiday safety recommendations to members of our community. The plan will send this important information out through local media outlets, through social media platforms such as Facebook and Nextdoor, through the SAFD FireSafeSA.com website and will be disseminated in both English and Spanish.

ISSUE:

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FISCAL IMPACT:

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ALTERNATIVES:

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RECOMMENDATION:

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