



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
{{item.tracking_number}}

Agenda Item Number: 5

Agenda Date: April 17, 2024

In Control: Governance Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: William McManus, Chief of Police

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Elder Abuse Reporting

SUMMARY:

On December 4, 2023, Councilmember Melissa Cabello Havrda (District 6) submitted a Council Consideration Request (CCR) requesting that City of San Antonio Departments that come into contact with senior citizens establish a requirement for all elder abuse and neglect calls to be reported to the Texas Adult Protective Services Department (APS).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Texas Human Resources Code Section 48.051 states anyone who suspects that an adult who is elderly or with disabilities is being abused, neglected, or financially exploited can report in good faith.

If an individual believes that an adult who is elderly or with disabilities is in a state of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation you are required to immediately report this to the Department of

Family Protective Services.

In Texas, any professional, who suspects that an adult aged 65 or older, or a person with disabilities is being abused, neglected, or financially exploited, has a legal obligation to report it.

- If you are an employer and come to know of this information during the scope of the person's employment in your company, you should report it.
- If you are a professional, such as an attorney, police officer, clergy member, medical practitioner, social worker, or mental health professional, and come to know of this confidential information through professional communications, you shall report it.

The San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) reports all criminal offenses related to elderly abuse as defined by the Texas Penal Code. Adult Protective Services (APS) contacts SAPD when they have a case which they believe is criminal in nature and may have been reported by someone other than law enforcement.

This CCR will require that all calls regardless of whether there is a criminal offense or not be reported to APS by all City Departments including SAPD. This comprehensive reporting of elder abuse calls would also explore requiring all City of San Antonio personnel who come into contact with elders (SAPD, SAFD, DHS, NHSD, Metro Health, etc.) receive training to identify all types of elder abuses defined by Texas APS abuse categories - e.g.: emotional abuse, exploitation, medical neglect, mental health neglect, physical neglect, financial exploitation, and sexual abuse.

ISSUE:

The CCR requests that the City of San Antonio Departments, including but not limited to the San Antonio Police Department, San Antonio Fire Department, Human Services, Neighborhood and Housing Services, and Metro Health, which come into contact with senior citizens to establish a requirement for all elder abuse and neglect calls to be reported to the Texas Adult Protective Services Department (APS).

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends this CCR be forwarded to the Public Safety Committee.