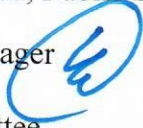


**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO**  
**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

TO: Melissa Cabello Havrda, Public Safety Committee Chair

FROM: Erik Walsh, City Manager 

COPIES TO: Public Safety Committee  
William McManus, Police Chief  
Claude Jacobs, Metro Health Director  
Maria Vargas-Yates, Public Safety Outcomes Coordinator  
Executive Leadership Team

SUBJECT: Integrated Community Safety Office

DATE: February 21, 2024

This correspondence provides a summary of several initiatives taken over the past year that address the City Council Request (CCR) from Councilman McKee-Rodriguez requesting the establishment of an Office of Crime and Recidivism Prevention.

A team of 8 members consisting of 4 positions added in prior years' budgets and 4 positions added in this year's budget, specifically for the Good Neighbor Program, has been assembled to create the Integrated Community Safety Office (ICSO) within the City Manager's Office. This Office is responsible for evaluating how city programs positively impact crime reduction by analyzing social conditions such as educational attainment, poverty, and unemployment that may contribute to criminal behavior. This Office will be led by Maria Vargas-Yates who was recently hired as the Public Safety Outcomes Coordinator, an executive position added in the FY 2023 Budget.

The ICSO will coordinate the work of City departments to proactively address systemic factors that contribute to criminal activity and that enhance the quality of life of San Antonio residents. The ICSO will coordinate its work with Metro Health, Police, other City departments, and outside stakeholders. The Division will monitor the implementation of the following activities:

**City's Violence Prevention Strategic Plan led by Metro Health:** A five-year strategic plan completed in late 2023 that uses a public health approach to reduce violence combining upstream and downstream interventions. The Plan focuses on four priority areas — gun violence, youth-on-youth violence, domestic violence, and sexual violence.

**Violent Crime Reduction Plan led by the Police Department:** Developed in partnership with the University of Texas in San Antonio (UTSA), the multi-year plan targets the reduction of violent crime using evidenced-based strategies. The short-term strategy focusing on increased police visibility in areas with high violent crime started in January 2023 and the mid-term strategy that calls for addressing underlying conditions contributing to greater prevalence of violent crime is in the early stages of implementation.



**Good Neighbor Program:** The ICSO will be responsible for implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the program created in 2023 that concentrates on bringing residential properties into compliance and connecting individuals to services. This multi-departmental, coordinated approach focuses on single residential properties with 12 or more calls (911 and 311) in the past 90 days.

**Public Safety Data Analysis:** The ICSO will analyze call data from the 911 emergency, non-emergency and 311 systems to identify patterns and make recommendations with the goal of improving the quality of life of San Antonio residents by reducing fear, preventing crime and promoting safety.

The ICSO will also evaluate the re-arrest rates of the SAPD, charges filed at the magistrate's office, and the final disposition of cases through the criminal justice system with the assistance of subject matter experts.

**Neighborhood Safety Program Assessment and Evaluation:** Prioritize and evaluate the impact of non-law enforcement city programs that have an impact in reducing crime. For example, youth programs, workforce development programs, and infrastructure improvements.

The ICSO will also inventory the programs the City currently provides to address recidivism in our community as well as programs provided by other governmental entities and non-profit organizations. Additionally, the Division will seek grant opportunities for the City to support and implement new initiatives targeting crime prevention and recidivism.

Maria Vargas-Yates, Public Safety Outcomes Coordinator, joined the City of San Antonio in 2017, supervising the Identification Office in SAPD. She most recently served in ITSD as interim Public Safety Innovation Administrator, providing guidance on the strategic utilization of public safety data and the development of new reporting frameworks. Prior to joining the City, Maria was Senior Intelligence Liaison on the NATO command staff in Kabul, Afghanistan. She supported NATO's mission to train and advise the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police. She later functioned as Lead Analyst in the Threat Intelligence Cell for US Forces Command at Bagram Airfield. Maria has a Master of Science in Criminology from the University of Texas at Dallas and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science: Law, Politics, and Economy from the University of Washington. Maria brings her background in criminology, public safety, and strategic data analysis as a foundation for the ICSO.

This Office will report to Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez and provide progress reports of their work to the Public Safety Committee.

I believe that these actions address the intent of the CCR. If you have any questions, please let me know.