

# 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 | Marc Whyte, District 10

**Monday, November 27, 2023**

**2:00 PM**

**Council Briefing Room at  
City Hall Complex**

The Public Safety Committee convened a regular meeting in the City Hall Council Briefing Room beginning at 2:08 PM. Executive Assistant, SueAnn Reyes 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*  
Marc Whyte, *Member*

**Members Absent:** None

### Approval of Minutes

#### 1. Approval of minutes from the October 10, 2023 Public Safety Committee Meeting

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to Approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023 Public Safety Committee meeting. Councilmember Whyte seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

### Public Comment

Richard Bryan, retired Texas Peace Officer, spoke regarding family violence and abusive environments. Mr. Bryan explained the similarities between the abuse of pets and humans. He noted

that discussion of the prevention of violence should include pets and animal cruelty and should be addressed in the City. He spoke of the option to attend educational services at Animal Care Services (ACS).

## **Briefing and Possible Action on**

### **2. Briefing by Metro Health on the collaborative development of a communitywide Violence Prevention Strategic Plan [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Claude A. Jacob, Director, Health]**

Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager, gave a brief overview of the proposed San Antonio Violence Prevention Strategic Plan (Plan) which focused on violence among youth, gun violence, sexual violence and domestic violence. Deputy City Manager Villagomez introduced Erika Haller-Stevenson, Metro Health Public Health Administrator, who presented the Plan.

Haller-Stevenson stated that violence was a public health issue and referenced Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Haller-Stevenson expressed the need for a cohesive regional strategy and noted that Metro Health would be collaborating with the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD). The Plan would be for five years and would focus on the public health approach. Haller-Stevenson identified shared priorities and evidence-based strategies which would allow multiple agencies and sectors of the community to work together for a greater impact. She added that another goal was to create partnerships to collaborate on efforts and attract funding for programs and services.

Haller-Stevenson introduced the coordinating team which consisted of herself, Deputy Chief Chris Benavides, SAPD, Dr. Kellile Lynch, UTSA and Tracy Tate, St. John Baptist Church. Haller-Stevenson recapped the community input process noting that community members were included from the beginning along with people working in the field. She stated that the planning process would include workgroups for each priority area along with 55 multisector participants consisting of advocates, people with lived experience, faith leaders, community organizations, local government, health care representatives and researchers. She stated that the coordinating team would use feedback to fine tune the Plan and planned to publish the Plan in November 2023 and implement the Plan in January 2024.

Chair Cabello Havrda stated that she appreciated the Plan but was concerned with funding and asked for deliverables.

Haller-Stevenson stated that the Plan would guide her team on how to move forward. She stated that her team distributed very little funds but this would drive them to look for partners.

Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that one of the benefits of the Plan was that the recommendations would be used as part of the Budget process.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that, overall, he was happy with the Plan and was eager to see what systemic structural changes were implemented.

Councilmember Alderete-Gavito expressed concern regarding abused animals and asked how the social cohesion was measured. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated if the Good Neighbor Program saw an animal that was being neglected or abused, they would bring in ACS and Metro Health to collaborate with other abuse in the household.

Councilmember Kaur expressed her support for the Plan and asked how the outcomes would be collected and monitored.

Councilmember Whyte asked about metrics and indicators and what the results were being compared to. Haller-Stevenson stated that they were being compared to themselves because they were looking for changes and that any change beyond the margin of error was good.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito asked who was making sure things were being tracked. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that Haller-Stevenson would be heading the Plan.

Councilmember Whyte expressed the need for results to be seen.

Item was for briefing only so no action was taken.

**3. Briefing on Complaint & Administrative Review Board (CARB) Civilian Appointments to fill 8 existing vacancies.** [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Chief McManus stated that the Complaint and Administrative Review Board (CARB) consisted of 14 members, seven civilian and seven sworn which were appointed by the City Council and he reviewed its functions. Chief McManus stated that the CARB was responsible for reviewing allegations of police misconduct and making decisions on disciplinary action. He noted that civilian members were rotated every 180 days. Chief McManus explained the requirements and application process noting that a member must be at least 25 years of age and must not have been indicted for a felony or a crime of moral turpitude, or officially charged with a Class A or B Misdemeanor.

McManus reported that interviews were conducted on October 23, 2023 and November 2, 2023 for eight civilian vacancies. He noted that the appointments were scheduled on December 12, 2023 for City Council consideration.

Councilmember McKee Rodriguez asked if the two people listed for consideration with the same last name were related. Chief McManus stated that they were related and that they would serve on a rotating basis. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked why the qualification age was 25. Liz Garza explained that there were rules the Civil Service Commission must meet which was dictated by State Law.

Councilmember Kaur asked if it was possible to get more diversity on the board.

Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated they were doing more advertising on social media and television, and would continue to improve efforts to attract more diverse members.

Item was for briefing only so no action was taken.

**4. Briefing on Holiday Safety Tips by the San Antonio Police Department and San Antonio Fire Department.** [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police; Charles N. Hood, Fire Chief]

Charles Hood, Fire Chief, gave a presentation on public safety tips on fire prevention which included safety when cooking, home heating safety (space heaters), Christmas tree safety and outreach. Chief Hood referred to a YouTube video which was available on the department website.

Chief McManus gave a presentation on holiday safety tips which consisted of vehicle thefts and break ins, porch thefts, home safety, drinking and driving and financial theft.

Item was for briefing only so no action was taken.

**Executive Session**

Executive Session was not held.

**Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

**Approved**

---

*Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair*

---

*Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk*