



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number: 22-188926**

---

**Agenda Item Number: 4**

**Agenda Date:** December 13, 2022

**In Control:** Governance Committee Meeting

---

**DEPARTMENT:** Office of the City Manager

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

CCR on the establishment of an Office of Crime and Recidivism Prevention

**SUMMARY:**

On May 11, 2022, Councilmember Jalen McKee-Rodriguez issued a Council Consideration Request (CCR) requesting the establishment of an Office of Crime and Recidivism Prevention. The proposed Office would apply a multidisciplinary criminological and public health approach to violence and crime prevention through the use of research, data, analysis, and data application to make informed policy, budget, and strategy recommendations in order to ensure the sustained safety and stability of families and communities most impacted by crime and recidivism in San Antonio.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Over the past year the City has begun several initiatives to address violence prevention and violent crime in San Antonio.

- In April 2022, Metro Health launched its SA Forward plan that presents the strategic direction for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District to protect and improve the health of the San Antonio community. This plan focuses on six priority areas including, among others, Violence Prevention. Metro Health is currently undergoing a quality improvement effort to enhance its infrastructure and renew its public health mission following extended mobilization in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) engaged the UTSA Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice in April 2022 to develop a Violent Crime Reduction Plan. This plan aims to reduce violent crime in the City's most violence-prone areas and among its most violence-prone offenders with the goal of reducing aggregate levels of reported violence in San Antonio. This plan will be presented to the City Council at a B Session in early 2023.
- As part of the FY 2023 Budget, the City Council approved the reallocation of a Metro Health position to create a position for crime and recidivism. This position reports to the Deputy City Manager and acts as the City's inter-departmental liaison to coordinate existing city programs that address and prevent crime and recidivism. This position will work with Metro Health and SAPD for implementation, measurement, and monitoring of initiatives related to Violence Prevention and Crime Prevention in San Antonio. This position is anticipated to be hired in the first quarter of 2023.

## **ISSUE:**

The City continues its efforts to address Violence Prevention utilizing a Public Health Approach, and Metro Health is taking advantage of several converging opportunities to plan long-term, evidence-based strategies to shift the landscape of health in the community. To this end, Metro Health and SAPD along with UTSA and representatives from St. John Baptist Church, were one of 17 groups selected to participate in the National Leadership Academy for the Public's Health. The Academy focuses on team-based leadership and is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This group will be joined by the Crime Prevention and Recidivism position and, as a team, they will coordinate a process to develop a Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan.

The Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan will identify and define strategies to prevent and intervene in violence along a continuum and throughout the lifespan. This plan will update the 2019 Metro Health Domestic Violence plan and build on it to incorporate prevention strategies for other community violence issues such as shootings, child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, and acts of mass violence. This plan will also align with or include strategies from SAPD's violent crime reduction efforts. Using a public health approach to prevent violence and work collaboratively with stakeholders, a multisectoral strategic plan will combine resources and amplify them to increase positive outcomes in the community.

The development of this plan will kick off with a presentation to the Public Safety Committee that will include a timeline along with stakeholder and community engagement. The Public Safety Committee will be given quarterly updates before the plan is presented to the full City Council.

The plan is estimated to be completed by November 2023.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This item is for briefing purposed only.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This item is for briefing purposed only.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff does not recommend the creation of an Office of Crime & Recidivism Prevention. The ongoing initiatives from Metro Health and SAPD along with the development of a Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan address the priorities outlined in the CCR.