

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

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

9:30 AM

City Hall Complex

The Public Safety Committee convened a regular meeting in the City Hall Council Briefing Room beginning at 9:33 AM. Deputy City Clerk Aurora Perkins 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 August 15, 2023 Public Safety Committee Meeting

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to Approve the minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting of August 15, 2023. Councilmember Alderete Gavito seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John White, President of the Oakland Heights Neighborhood Association, addressed concerns associated with 18-wheeler parking in residential areas.

Ananda Tomas, Leonora Walker (Free Texas) and Stephen Luckey spoke in support of the establishment of the Office of Crime and Recidivism Prevention and policies to address these

issues.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Briefing and possible action on the submission, and acceptance upon award, of a Texas Department of Transportation (TXDoT) DWI traffic enforcement grant called Impaired Driving Mobilization (IDM) for the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.** [Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Councilmember Whyte moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Kaur seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

3. **Briefing and possible action on the acceptance of the Child Welfare Strategic Alliance Program Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$397,684.00.** [Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Councilmember Whyte moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Kaur seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Briefing and Possible Action on

4. **Briefing and possible action on a proposed ordinance amendment to regulate the overnight parking of oversized commercial vehicles on non-residential public streets.** [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez introduced the Item and San Antonio Police Assistant Chief Robert Blanton who provided an overview of regulations and policies associated with over-sized vehicles and 18-wheeler parking in residential areas. Blanton stated that a Council Consideration Request (CCR) was submitted by Councilmember Pelaez and spoke to the background associated with laws of addressing parking of over-sized vehicles. He reviewed the City and State Codes addressing over-sized vehicle parking and violations issued to owners/operators of these vehicles.

Blanton provided an overview of the restrictions in other Texas cities to include Austin, Houston, Ft. Worth and Dallas. He noted that Austin's policy was very similar to San Antonio's and that the other cities had more restrictive guidelines. Due to this review, Blanton stated that SAPD recommended amendments to Code 19-179 and 19-194 with additional restrictions for overnight parking and certain situations. SAPD recommended parking restrictions in commercial areas between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. and would keep in place parking restrictions within residential areas.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked for clarification on the proposed restrictions for commercial and residential areas. Blanton stated that there were gaps in enforcement in residential areas to address parking issues. He stated that there were misdemeanor citations issued for overnight parking within residential areas. Chair Cabello Havrda asked if outreach had been provided to businesses.

Councilmember Whyte asked for clarification on citations which had not been paid by violators. Blanton stated that the unpaid citations were recorded by Municipal Court. Councilmember Whyte asked what occurred when fines were not paid and if there were additional actions for collecting those fines. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that staff would research what actions were taken for violators who did not pay fines and would define enforcement escalations.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito asked for clarification on the duties of the Center City Development and Operations Department, the Development Services Department and the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) for issuing violations. Blanton clarified that the departments addressed violators at different times of the day and all citations were reported to Municipal Courts.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito asked where over-sized vehicles were to park if not in residential areas. Blanton stated that the owners and operators of over-sized vehicles were responsible for parking and storage.

Chair Cabello Havrda asked if the recommended restriction of parking allowances within commercial districts was only between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. She asked citizen John Wood to provide input on parking allowances for commercial parking between those hours. Wood stated that he was supportive of the limited parking within the commercial parking due to the need for commercial activity. He added that commercial businesses were in support of the limited parking.

Councilmember Kaur asked if communications had occurred with commercial trucking companies. Blanton stated that no meetings had occurred. Councilmember Kaur asked for a discussion with these companies prior to coming the City Council for approval. Assistant City Manager Villagomez stated that a conversation would occur.

Councilmember Kaur asked what the communication plan would be to the oversized vehicle operators of restrictions. Assistant City Manager Villagomez stated that a communication plan would be established and stated that street signage would be installed in areas where many violations had occurred.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez expressed concern over the trucks tearing up the road and the impact it caused. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez also inquired about the fines and fees and felt that the trucking companies may find it easier and cheaper to pay the fines rather than to pay for storage of the vehicles.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito moved to Approve. Councilmember Whyte seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

5. Briefing and possible action on the Council Consideration Request by Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez (District 2) regarding establishment of an Office of Crime & Recidivism Prevention.
[María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager]

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez addressed the Council Consideration Request (CCR) submitted by Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez for the establishment of an Office of Crime and Recidivism Prevention. She provided an overview which included initiatives addressing CCRs. She noted that staff was establishing a Crime Prevention Plan, a Violence Prevention Strategic Plan, SA Forward Plan and

stated that funding had been identified in the upcoming Budget to create the Office.

Deputy City Manager Villagomez reviewed the establishment of the Violence Prevention Strategic Plan by the Metro Health Department. She noted that the Plan would address up-stream and down-stream strategies with a 5 year road map addressing priorities related to violence and its causes. She added that the plan would be a collaborative, community wide process involving participation by stakeholders and community members. She reviewed the timeline for the process.

Deputy City Manager Villagomez reviewed the development of the Violent Crime Reduction Plan which was done in partnership with SAPD and UTSA. She noted that the Plan aimed to reduce violent crime in the City's most violence prone areas and among most-violence-prone offenders. She stated that the focus was to address hot spot policing and which began in January 2023.

Deputy City Manager Villagomez reviewed the Violence Crime Reduction Plan results for January to June 2023 and added that final report would be presented to the committee. She stated that the strategy had proven to be successful and identified violent crime areas and focus of stopping those crimes. She added that a Problem-Oriented, Place Based Policing program was established which included cross city department board being created with the departments of Solid Waste, Metro Health, Human Services, Planning, City Attorney's Office and SAPD to address crime and its underlying causes. She added that the focus of the board was to identify issues and how to address possible solutions to deter crime such as increased lighting or signage.

Deputy City Manager Villagomez reviewed additional initiatives to address public safety to include Neighborhood Safety Program Assessment and Evaluation Project. She noted that under the FY 2023 Budget funds were moved Metro Health vacant positions to create a Public Safety Outcome Coordinator and a grants position for a crime prevention and recidivism grants.

Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that staff recommended the creation of the Office of Crime and Recidivism Prevention.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that he had concerns that his CCRs did not receive adequate consideration or support by staff and that he was clear on what he expected from this Item. He felt that there was not enough work done to the establishment of the Office nor the review of what had been done in other cities in the establishment of this Office. He felt that there was a need for a timelier response and that his request was that the Office should include recidivism professionals to work with staff to address these issues for crime prevention.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that there were substantial gaps in the recommendations which included a permanent team was immediately needed to address crime and recidivism prevention and not just a study to be conducted by UTSA which was alone time study. He expressed concern regarding one-time initiatives recommended by staff. He recommended that a monthly meeting occurred with SAPD and the Office to identify issues in a proactive manner to include identification of social media activity, stakeholder participation.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested that the establishment of the Office be built by the Public Safety Committee along with community stakeholders.

Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that staff took all CCRs with respect and consideration and

that the staff recommendations were not one time efforts that would provide guidance to staff for the development of policy. She asked that the committee identify outcomes that they would like to achieve for this Office and staff would work to meet those outcomes.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito acknowledged the efforts by Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez on the establishment of the Office. She asked how often staff would brief the committee or City Council on the performance metrics of each of the established plans. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that performance metrics would be reported on a quarterly basis which followed other plan reporting. Gavito noted that it was important to receive performance measures and asked if a staffer could be identified to make sure reporting and metrics were being reported. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the Public Safety Outcomes Coordinator would be leading the efforts for metrics reporting and coordination within participating departments.

Councilmember Whyte noted his support for a review of the CCR process. He expressed his support of the initiative and stated that there were already initiatives and staff in place to address crime and recidivism issues and that coordination was needed to receive the expected performance metrics.

Chair Cabello Havrda acknowledged the coordination of the CCR to this committee and noted her scheduling of the Item on the agenda.

Council Kaur asked for clarification on what staff was leading the efforts for the establishment of this office. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the Metro Health Department would lead the establishment of the work plans and metrics to address crime and recidivism prevention efforts. Erica Haller- Stevenson with Metro Health reviewed the input and establishment of public safety initiatives.

Councilmember Kaur asked how the plan would be implemented. Haller-Stevenson stated that it was essential to work with community partners and stakeholders to guide the implementation of the plan and stressed that communication was key to address issues and solutions.

Councilmember Kaur asked if staff had compared what other offices within other national cities were doing. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that staff had reviewed what was being done in many cities to include Dallas and Atlanta and noted that many were managed by Police Departments. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the implementation of the plan would occur in partnership with UTSA and SAPD. Councilmember Kaur noted that the plans addressed issues with additional lighting and other areas to assist in reduction in opportunities for crime but asked that additional efforts would be identified to review grant opportunities. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez noted that he advocated for the two positions for the Office of Crime and Recidivism Prevention. He stressed the need for additional staff since it a sole coordinator to meet with all departments was unrealistic and would prove unsuccessful. He added that there was a need to identify additional staff for these efforts. He stressed the need for the committee to address possible policy.

Councilmember Whyte stated that it was important for the committee to identify gaps and present to staff to develop policy. First Assistant City Attorney Liz Provencio noted that the committee was charged to provide direction but that the City Manager was responsible to establish policy and programs.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested that the Item be addressed again at an upcoming meeting for further discussion and direction. Chair Cabello Havrda stated that the item would be brought

again to the Committee.

No action was taken on this Item.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Consideration of items for future meetings

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 AM.

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk