

**PUBLIC SAFETY
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021
2:30 PM
VIDEOCONFERENCE**

Members Present:	Councilmember Melissa Cabello Havrda, <i>Chair, District 6</i> Councilmember Jalen McKee Rodriguez, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Phylis Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Ana Sandoval, <i>District 7</i> Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i>
Members Absent:	None
Staff Present:	Erik Walsh, <i>City Manager</i> ; María Villagómez, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Lori Houston, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Roderick Sanchez, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Andy Segovia, <i>City Attorney</i> ; Liz Provencio, <i>First Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Jim Kopp, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Thomas Filopoulos, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; William P. McManus, <i>Chief of Police</i> ; Robert Blanton, <i>Deputy Chief, SAPD</i> ; Anthony Maziak, <i>Deputy Chief, SAPD</i> ; Jesse Salame, <i>Lieutenant, SAPD</i> ; Michelle Ramos, <i>Lieutenant, SAPD</i> ; James Lint, <i>Lieutenant, SAPD</i> ; Brady Wise, <i>Captain, Park Police</i> ; Juan De La Pena, <i>Lieutenant, Park Police</i> ; Razi Hosseini, <i>Director, Public Works</i> ; Richard Riley, <i>Assistant Police Director, SAPD</i>

Call to order

Chairwoman Cabello Havrda called the meeting to order.

Items for Consideration

1. Approval of minutes from the Public Safety Committee meeting on August 2, 2021

Councilmember Perry moved to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2021 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Written Testimony

There were no written comments submitted.

Live Testimony

Steve Yndo stated proposed use of the Park Police headquarters at Hemisfair would violate one of the basic principles of value creation, both in real estate and in the development of a City. He

noted that the proposal did not include public input and was directly counter to the hundreds of hours of public input gathered for the planning and execution of Hemisfair.

Corina Castillo Johnson read a letter from Cara DeAnda, Director of the Hemisfair Park Area Redevelopment Corporation (HPARC) concerning the lack of public and stakeholder input and the location for the Parks Police Headquarters 2017 Bond project. Ms. Johnson stated that HPARC asked that the Public Safety Council Committee to seek input from the public and the HPARC Board of Directors before moving forward with the relocation plan.

Item 6 was addressed at this time.

6. Briefing by the Public Works Department and Parks Police on Parks Police Headquarters 2017 Bond Project. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

Public Works Director Razi Hosseini stated that in May 2017, the voters approved the 2017-2022 Bond Program which included \$20.5 million to construct a new facility that would include a City Police Substation for the central city area and Park Police headquarters for city-wide service. He reported that an exhaustive property search was conducted but was unsuccessful in identifying a site of sufficient size which was in the service area and within the Budget. He stated that following extensive coordination between City management, Council District 1 and HPARC with an alternative being reached: 1) Split into two locations; and 2) Construct one facility and renovate an existing City facility.

Mr. Hosseini stated that a pre-solicitation briefing was presented to the Audit & Accountability Council Committee on January 19, 2021 who approved the project. He reported that on April 16, 2021, the Public Works Department issued a Request for Competitive Sealed Proposal (RFCSP) for the Park Police Headquarters Building 277, located in Hemisfair Park. He noted that the project would remodel approximately 24,000 square feet of the existing two-story building. He added that a post-solicitation briefing to the Public Safety Council Committee was pending.

Captain Brady Wise of the San Antonio Park Police reported that the Park Police provided law enforcement for parks, park lands and the Riverwalk. He stated that the service areas included:

- 250+ City-owned parks (16,000 acres of park lands)
- 80+ miles of city hike and bike Greenway Trails
- 50+ Recreational centers including sports complexes and fields
- 28 City pools
- Central Business District Area
 - Botanical Gardens, Hemisfair Park, Tower of the Americas, Spanish Governor's Palace, Market Square and the San Antonio Riverwalk

Captain Wise reviewed the units of the Park Police Department. He stated that the current Park Police headquarters was located at 600 Hemisfair Plaza Way in building 337 and was utilized for Park Police Officers and administrators and for storage of equipment and vehicles. He indicated that the facility was built in the late 1960's and was approximately 8,000 square feet. He added that facility Amenities included:

- Service agent desks
- Roll call room
- Offices
- Break room
- Storage

Captain Wise that there were 14 satellite and storage locations throughout the City which were utilized for All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and bike storage.

Captain Wise stated that the reasons for use of an alternate facility included:

- Aged facility
- Electrical
- Mechanical
- Plumbing
- HVAC
- Forcing the decentralization of staff and equipment

Captain Wise indicated that the limitations resulted in inefficiencies in providing service area support and timely responses. He provided several photos depicting some of the challenges.

Mr. Hosseini reported that Building 277 in Hemisfair Park was chosen for the following reasons:

- City-owned
- Ideal service area location
- Structurally sound and building systems
- Size and configuration sufficient for current staffing and future growth
- Moderate renovation needed

Mr. Hosseini stated that the renovation of Building 277 in Hemisfair Park would house the new Park Police headquarters and would include:

- Roll call, report writing and interview rooms
- Offices, conference and break rooms
- Fitness and locker rooms
- Body camera charging area
- Bike storage and maintenance
- Parking

Mr. Hosseini noted that the facility square footage was approximately 24,000 and the project Budget was \$4,779,147.00. He indicated that the funding sources included general obligation bonds and certificates of obligation. He stated that \$503,475.12 of the funds had been committed to date. He reported that project design began in March 2020 and was completed in February 2021. He noted that a post-solicitation briefing would be provided to the Audit and Accountability Council Committee in October 2021 and the project would be considered by the

City Council in November 2021. He added that if approved, construction would begin in December 2021 and was estimated to be completed by December 2022.

Mr. Hosseini stated that the cost for construction at a new location would cost \$18 million and the project would take 2.5 years to complete.

Chairwoman Cabello Havrda asked of the City's relationship with HPARC. Mr. Hosseini stated that the City had worked with HPARC for the last ten years or so on bond projects. Chairwoman Cabello Havrda asked of the formal stakeholder process. Mr. Hosseini stated that HPARC was the stakeholder and staff met with them approximately six times.

Assistant City Manager Lori Houston stated that the San Antonio City Council created a local government corporation in 2009 for HPARC. She indicated that the Board Members were appointed by the Mayor and the City Council would take action on the appointments and the Board was charged with the redevelopment of Hemisfair Park.

Councilmember Perry asked if HPARC and Council District 1 had the opportunity to oppose the project. Mr. Hosseini stated that they had the opportunity to oppose the project from the beginning and staff realized that approximately two weeks ago both parties did not favor the project.

Councilmember Sandoval asked if the split locations were voted on. Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez stated that the bond document did not specify the location of the project and staff performed due diligence in terms of what would fit at the St. Mary's site. She indicated that the vote was for the contract but staff discussed that it was necessary to have two locations to accommodate to the Bond Program.

Councilmember Viagran expressed concern regarding the age of the building, the cost of the project and the breakdown in communications between City staff, HPARC and Councilmembers. She asked how long building 277 had been vacant. Mr. Hosseini stated that he did not know when the building became completely vacant. He noted that any renovations to buildings included adherence to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that he knew that HPARC did not support the project months ago. He indicated that he did not support the project.

No action was required for Item 6.

Item 2 was addressed at this time.

- 2. Briefing, and possible action, on a San Antonio Police Department grant continuence application to the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) for funds from the Regional Auto Crimes Team Project to fund innovative enforcement and theft prevention techniques in the amount of \$815,785.00.** [Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Chief of Police William P. McManus stated that the Regional Auto Crimes Team (ReACT) Project would enhance the San Antonio Police Department's (SAPDs) efforts to combat vehicle crimes

and would: 1) Institute innovative enforcement and theft prevention techniques; 2) Lower number of vehicles stolen; and 3) Increase vehicle recovery rates. He reported that from January 1, 2021 to September 10, 2021 there were 303 arrests, 137 warrants cleared, 20 search warrants, 613 recovered vehicles with a recovered value of \$8.92 million.

Chief McManus reported that education and enforcement were accomplished through:

- Public awareness campaigns
- Community outreach
- Covert operations
- Salvage yard inspections
- Intelligence sharing and coordination

Chief McManus stated that the project was designed to be a multi-jurisdictional task force and in past years, SAPD had partnered with the Bexar County Sheriff's Office (BCSO). He noted that in August 2021, BCSO notified SAPD of its intent to withdraw from the ReACT Project. He added that SAPD had established a partnership with the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Chief McManus reported that the grant period was from September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022 and the Grant Budget was \$815,785 and partially funded seven Detectives and two civilians. He added that the in-kind match was \$2,305,662 and the cash match was \$466,679. He stated that if recommended, the Public Safety Council Committee would forward the item to City Council for consideration on October 14, 2021.

Councilmember Perry moved to recommend and forward the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) Regional Auto Crimes Team (ReACT) Grant 2022 to the City Council for consideration. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 5 was addressed at this time.

5. Briefing on the San Antonio Police Department crime statistics quarterly update.
[Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Chief McManus stated that SAPD reported crime occurring in the City based on the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) standard. He noted that each year, SAPD reported crime data to the FBI which produced an annual report highlighting national crime trends in major metropolitan areas throughout the country. He reported that the FBI had mandated the use of a National Incidents Based Reporting System (NIBRS) crime reporting standard to replace the UCR standard by January 2021. He indicated that SAPD had transitioned to NIBRS and for this calendar year had continued to track and report using the UCR standard for comparative purposes. He added that beginning in January 2022, SAPD would only track and report utilizing the NIBRS standard.

Chief McManus reported that each year, SAPD and 18,000 law enforcement agencies across the nation submitted crime data to the FBI on:

- Violent crimes
 - Homicide

- Rape
- Aggravated Assault
- Robbery
- Property crimes
 - Burglary
 - Larceny
 - Vehicle Theft
 - Arson

Chief McManus stated that SAPD implemented a new records management system (Mark43) in November 2020. He noted that the standard police report, executed through Mark43, captured detailed information about incidents. He indicated that this detailed data was utilized internally to better inform policing strategies. He added that UCR collected data for eight Part I offenses whereas NIBRS expanded data collection to 23 categories of offenses.

Chief McManus noted that the FBI cautioned against comparing statistical data of individual reporting units from cities, counties, metropolitan areas and states as reporting data provided no insight on the variable that impact crime in cities. He added that the use of reporting data alone to rank cities resulted in incomplete and misleading analysis.

Chief McManus reviewed the UCR crime statistics from January to July in 2016-2021. He reported that violent crime was 12.9% lower than in 2020; property crime was 1.7 % lower than in 2020; and overall crime was 3.6% lower than in 2020. He reviewed the local crime trends comparing 2017 to 2018, 2018 to 2019 and 2020 to 2021.

Chairwoman Cabello Havrda asked of the roles of the nine positions to be included. Chief McManus stated that the roles included making presentations, serving warrants and searching for stolen vehicles and individuals wanted for stealing vehicles. Chairwoman Cabello Havrda asked if personnel could attend neighborhood meetings to discuss auto theft prevention. Chief McManus replied that they could, along with SAFTE Officers.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked how the change from UCR to NIBRS would affect the department's ability to detect trends beyond January 2021. Chief McManus stated that 2021 would be the baseline year for NIBRS. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked how long had SAPD received the grant. Chief McManus stated that SAPD had been awarded the grant since 1993.

Councilmember Perry asked where the funding for the grant came from. Chief McManus stated that the grant was funded by the Office of the Governor. Lieutenant James Lint stated that a portion of everyone's auto insurance cost supported the grant and funds were allocated to task forces (24) established across the state. Councilmember Perry requested that information on auto theft prevention be presented at community meetings. He asked if comparison of statistics could be made with other cities utilizing the NIBRS crime reporting standard. Chief McManus stated that it could not.

Councilmember Viagran asked when the report for 2021 would be available. Mr. Jenkins stated that the report for 2021 would be available in February 2022.

No action was required for Item 5.

Item 3 was addressed at this time.

3. Briefing, and possible action on the Complaint and Administrative Review Board (CARB) to fill existing vacancies. [Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Chief McManus stated that the CARB was comprised of seven members from a panel of 14 (seven civilians and seven sworn) available Members. He indicated that applicants must have been a resident of the City for two years and could not have been formally charged for offenses above a Class C Misdemeanor. He noted that applicants were interviewed by the Police Chief, the City Attorney's Office and the City Manager's Office. He indicated that the City Manager would forward the recommendations to the City Council for consideration. He reported that Members served for a two-year period, met every two weeks and were rotated every 180 days.

Chief McManus reported that a letter listing the recommended applicants was sent to the San Antonio Police Officers Association (SAPOA). He stated that once the recommended applicants presented to City Council were approved, Members were required to complete training which included a ride-along, an overview of the Internal Affairs Unit and a presentation on the role of the CARB.

Chief McManus stated that the CARB, which was authorized by Article 29 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), heard investigations completed by Internal Affairs on complaints against Police Officers and would provide recommendations on disciplinary actions to the Police Chief. He added that from 2017-2019, 95% of the Police Chief's disciplinary actions were within the CARB recommended range.

Chief McManus reported that the seven sworn members of the CARB included:

- Deputy Chief (serves as Chairperson)
- Captain
- Lieutenant
- Sergeant
- Detective
- Two Patrol Officers

Chief McManus stated that there were 2 civilian positions on the CARB in 2002; four civilian positions in 2006; and seven civilian positions were instituted in 2009. He reported that there were currently five civilian vacancies and interviews with applicants were held on June 1 and June 8, 2021. He noted that the interview panel was comprised of the Deputy City Manager, the Chief of Police and the First Assistant City Attorney. He added that seven interviews were conducted.

Chief McManus presented the roster of the current CARB Civilian Members and associated demographics. He reviewed the proposed CARB Civilian Members and associated demographics. He added that proposed board appointments would be presented to the City Council for consideration in October 2021.

Chairwoman Cabello Havrda requested the interview questions. She suggested an additional rotation of seven Civilian Members. Chief McManus stated that the CBA limited the number of Civilian Members. Chairwoman Cabello Havrda asked if the addition of Civilian Members was part of the current negotiations. Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez stated that it was not.

Councilmember Viagran expressed support for the addition of seven Civilian Members to the CARB.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked what the City was doing to align its processes with national best practices. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that Civilian Members had access to the file utilized during the investigation. First Assistant City Attorney Liz Provencio stated that as part of the legislative session, the City supported an amendment to Texas Local Government Code Section 143089 G to give the City the ability to give citizens access to files which were otherwise confidential. She noted that the measure did not pass and noted that the inability to access to files put this in the realm of the CBA and where the City was able to override State Law.

Councilmember Perry asked how board, commission and committee vacancies were advertised. Chief McManus stated that they were advertised through the Office of the City Clerk. Councilmember Perry requested that the City Council Districts be provided with information on vacancies. He requested information on the number of cases where the Police Chief did not agree with the CARB's recommendation.

Chairwoman Cabello Havrda requested an in-depth presentation on the CARB

No action was required for Item 3.

Item 4 was addressed at this time.

4. Briefing, and possible action, amending an ordinance restricting sex offenders living near city schools. {Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police}

Chief McManus reported that the Park Safety Zone Ordinance was approved by the City Council in December 2013 and stated that it was a Class C Misdemeanor for a person required to register as a sex offender to have temporary or permanent residence within 1,000 feet of a park, or to enter or come within 300 feet of a City park. He noted that exceptions included: 1) Residence and park restriction did not include most of the Riverwalk on the street level; 2) Attending official meetings and voting; and 3) Individual lived at prohibited location prior to enactment. He added that the Police Chief could grant an exemption.

Chief McManus stated that the SAPD Sex Offender Registration Detail (SORD) was responsible for the registration of persons subject to Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 62: Sex Offender Registration Program and for enforcing registration requirements. He noted that the SORD included:

- Two Officers
 - Registration of offenders
 - Update the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) website

- Notifications to school district administrators
- Three Detectives
 - Monitor registrants through home visits to ensure compliance
 - File cases against registrants who failed to comply with Chapter 62 requirements

Chief McManus reported that the SORD monitored approximately 2,900 registered sex offenders, registered 480 offenders a month, conducted home visits on 240 offenders a month and filed charges on an average of 15 offenders per month for registration violations.

Chief McManus stated that on March 29, 2021, SAPD, in coordination with Education Service Center Region 20, hosted a meeting with area school districts to discuss:

- Sex offender registration requirements
- SORD role and responsibilities
- School outreach and coordination
- Data and information sharing
- Existing Ordinance and possible amendments

Chief McManus reported that on September 9, 2021, SAPD hosted a follow-up meeting with representatives from area school districts to discuss proposed amendments and to solicit feedback. He stated that the potential Ordinance amendment for discussion was to expand residency restrictions for registered sex offenders to include schools. He noted that the City could not limit places where sex offenders could live as to effectively prohibit offenders from living within the City. He indicated that an exemption would be applied for sex offenders that currently lived within 1,000 feet of a school and registered juvenile sex offenders could not be prohibited from living at home with their parents. He added that the amendment would impact close to 30% of the 2,900 registered sex offenders.

Councilmember Perry stated that he fully supported the proposed amendment to the Ordinance.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that he supported the proposed amendment.

Councilmember Viagran moved to brief the City Council at B Session. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Perry stated that this Item should be expedited. He asked how soon the Item could be included in a B Session. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that it could be heard at a B Session no earlier than January 2022. Councilmember Perry expressed concern regarding the potential delay.

Chairwoman Cabello Havrda asked how quickly the Item could be considered at an A Session. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the Item could be considered at an A Session in mid-October 2021.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez proposed bringing the Item back before the Public Safety Council Committee at the next meeting and considering the Item at the following A Session. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that it was an alternative.

Chairwoman Cabello Havrda asked if it was the intent to call for another briefing to the Public Safety Council Committee. Councilmember Viagran stated that it was not but she wanted to ensure that the amendment received support from the City Council.

Councilmember Perry stated that the City Council voted on items that had not been brought before a Council Committee or a B Session and noted that staff could provide a briefing to all Councilmembers.

Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that staff could provide a pre-briefing to all Councilmembers and the Item could be posted for individual consideration at an A Session. Councilmember Viagran stated that she supported this alternative and withdrew her motion.

Councilmember Perry moved to have staff provide a briefing on the Item to all Councilmembers prior to presentation to the City Council at an A Session for individual consideration. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Items for Future Meetings

Chairwoman Cabello Havrda stated that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on October 19, 2021.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:47 PM.

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair

Respectfully Submitted

Denice F. Trevino, Office of the City Clerk