



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

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**Agenda Item Number:** 5

**Agenda Date:** March 21, 2022

**In Control:** Public Safety Committee

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**DEPARTMENT:** City Manager's Office

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

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Update on Implementation of Initiatives related to the Police Services Review Project

**SUMMARY:**

The Public Safety Committee will receive a briefing on the implementation of two initiatives related to the Police Services Review Project funded in the FY 2022 Budget. These initiatives are:

- Pilot program to address mental health calls, and
- Strengthening the City's Response to Domestic Violence Calls in the Metro Health Department.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

A framework for a review of Police Services was presented by the City Manager to the Mayor and City Council as part of the FY 2021 Budget process. This framework centered around addressing foundational issues, community expectations of the police department, community input and service alternatives. This process began in December 2020 and concluded in August 2021.

The Public Safety Committee was charged with overseeing the progress of the review and implementation of the recommendations that resulted from the review. On November 2021, the Public Safety Committee was presented with an update on the progress of the initiatives included in the FY 2022 Budget. These initiatives include:

**Alternatives to respond to certain 911 Calls**

1. Implementing a Pilot Program for a Multidisciplinary Team to address mental health calls.
  - a. Status of the program will be presented at the Public Safety Committee on March 21, 2022 Meeting.
  - b. The City entered into an agreement with the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC) in December 2021 to provide the City with mental health professional to assist with mental health crisis stabilization as part of the Multidisciplinary Response Team (MDRT) for Mental Health pilot program, and to conduct an evaluation of the program.
2. Strengthening the City's Response to Domestic Violence Calls by increasing the Civilian Crisis Response Team in Metro Health to enhance services at the South, East, and West Police Substations.
  - a. Status of the program will be presented at the Public Safety Committee on March 21, 2022 Meeting.
3. Partnership with Animal Care Services (ACS) to address certain animal related calls.
  - a. Status: ACS has onboarded the 4 positions approved within the FY 2022 Budget. Additionally, ACS has coordinated with 311 and SAPD non-emergency to route calls to ACS after 11pm.
  - b. ACS Officers are currently in training and will begin enforcement on April 16, 2022.
4. Partnership with Code Enforcement to address noise calls.
  - a. The six-month pilot program is underway and will end April 3, 2022. As of March 12, a total of 2,596 calls have been addressed by Code Enforcement with a total of 287 violations identified. Of calls referred by Code Enforcement, the Police Department has issued a total of 148 citations.
  - b. After the conclusion of the pilot program, an evaluation will be conducted and an update will be provided to the Public Safety Committee with a recommendation.
5. Partnership with San Antonio Fire Department to address firework calls during New Year's Eve and 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holidays.
  - a. The Fire Department Arson Division responded to firework related calls during the period of December 22, 2021 to January 2, 2022 and responded to 71 firework related calls.
6. Introducing a centralized process to collect Found Property
  - a. The found property boxes have been purchased and installed at the five outlying substations. Security cameras and van have been ordered and are pending delivery.

### **Community and Police Relationships**

1. Augmenting the San Antonio Fear Free Environment Program (SAFFE) by adding 12 new police officers across the City. Two officers will be assigned to each of the six Substations.
  - a. Officers were hired in January and trained.
  - b. Officers began their SAFFE officer assignments in February.
2. Continuing the Crime Prevention Program introduced in FY 2020 and funded from the Confiscated Property Fund to partner with non-profit organizations.
  - a. The FY22 RFP for \$250,000 was released December 15, 2021 and closed on February 18, 2022; 4 entities submitted proposals. The evaluation committee has met once and meets again on 3/23/22 to discuss the proposals. Anticipate Council award in May 2022.

## **Police Data and Transparency**

1. Improving the information provided to the Community through the City's website.
  - a. ITSD is working on this initiative and anticipates enhancements by July 2022.
2. Studying a Police Staffing Model for the San Antonio Police Department.
  - a. Request for Proposal will be released in April 2022.
3. Partnership with Metro Health to analyze impact of City Programs on Crime.
  - a. Metro Health will lead effort to analyze impact of the quality of life of residents to include crime
  - b. SAPD will support with crime data, trend analysis, and subject matter expertise
  - c. Workplan is anticipated to be completed by April/Mary 2022

## **Streetlights**

1. Development of a streetlight index and funding for the installation of new streetlights led by the Development Services Department.
  - a. The two positions added in the budget have been hired. Gap analysis will begin in March and is anticipated to be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

## **ISSUE:**

The Public Safety Committee will receive a briefing on the implementation of two initiatives related to the Police Services Review Project funded in the FY 2022 Budget. These initiatives are the implementation of pilot program to address mental health calls and the expansion of the domestic violence program in the Metro Health Department.

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

This is a briefing item only.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This is a briefing item only.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

This is a briefing item only.