



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 5

Agenda Date: September 15, 2021

In Control: Governance Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Fire Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Charles Hood, Fire Chief

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

A briefing and discussion on a Council Consideration Request (CCR) from Councilmember Rocha Garcia on COSA Emergency Preparedness Implementation Plan [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; Charles Hood, San Antonio Fire Department]

SUMMARY:

On June 24, 2021, Councilmember Rocha Garcia submitted a Council Consideration Request (CCR) to direct City staff to develop an Emergency Preparedness Implementation Plan that will be reviewed at an assigned City Council Subcommittee. Below is a summary of the requested actions included in the CCR:

- The City must take the lead in implementing the recommendations from the Committee on Emergency Preparedness and create policy to support them, which includes revisiting the relationship between the City and the utilities, not only during an emergency.
- Contingency plans, especially those involving critical infrastructure, need to be periodically reviewed and updated.

- Existing preparedness guidelines should be reviewed with a critical lens to serve vulnerable populations.
- Emergency plans should be the responsibility of a singular executive or department head.
- Formation of a specific City Council subcommittee specifically charged to annually review, audit, and assess the City's municipally owned utilities.
- To the extent possible, special Council sessions should be added to City Council planning calendars as placeholders within a week of a forecasted weather event or soon after an unforeseen event occurs.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The San Antonio Office of Emergency Management (SAOEM), a division of the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD), is responsible for city-wide disaster training, planning, exercises, and management of the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) during emergency activations. The SAOEM will take the lead to implement the recommendation from the Committee on Emergency Preparedness and will provide updates to the Municipal Utilities Council Committee. As part of the FY 2022 Workplan presented to City Council on August 25, 2021, the SAOEM will be addressing the actions included in the June 24, 2021 CCR:

- Table-top exercise with Utilities focusing on a “cascading event” like Winter Storm Uri scheduled for September 2021.
- Implement recommendations from the Committee on Emergency Preparedness.
- Replacement of critical building systems at key public safety facilities
- Purchase of generators for some fire stations and police substations
- Identify 4 resiliency hubs across the City of San Antonio
- Development of a Resiliency Strategy that will become a tactical roadmap to build resilience that articulates priorities and specific initiatives for short, medium, and long-term implementation. Developing this strategy would take City Council Policy Direction and robust Community Input
- Enhance community emergency preparedness education and coordinate these efforts with CPS Energy, SAWS and other stakeholders.
- Identify San Antonio vulnerable populations by working with the State, CPS, and other stakeholders that would result in a registry.
- Annual Reports to City Council on progress made on the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Additionally, SAOEM maintains several emergency operations plans to include a Basic Plan and a Hazard Mitigation Plan. These plans will be reviewed periodically with the Public Safety Committee.

ISSUE:

The City's Office of Emergency Management will present the initiatives included in their FY 2022 Workplan to the Public Safety Committee and will provide updates throughout the year as these initiatives are implemented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact; this memo is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This memo is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff Recommends that the City's Emergency Management Office provides updates to the following committees to address the actions requested within the June 24, 2021 CCR:

- Report to the Municipal Utilities Committee on implementation of recommendations from the Committee on Emergency Preparedness.
- Report progress to the Public Safety Committee on the Office of Emergency Management Office FY 2022 Workplan on a quarterly basis.