



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 8

Agenda Date: March 18, 2022

In Control: Audit and Accountability Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Office of the City Auditor

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Kevin Barthold

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Acceptance of the Office of the City Auditor audit AU21-022 report of the San Antonio Police Department Uniform Crime Reporting

SUMMARY:

Determine if crime statistics are accurately reported and there are adequate controls over the collection, calculation, and reporting of these statistics.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Background

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 18,000 federal, state, city, university and college, and tribal law enforcement agencies voluntarily reporting data on offenses reported or known. The program's primary objective is to generate reliable information for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management. To accomplish this

objective, the FBI implemented the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in which law enforcement agencies nationwide report data on each offense and arrest. The Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) has taken stewardship over statewide crime reporting and is tasked with collecting, validating, and consolidating all UCR data from jurisdictions throughout the State of Texas.

The San Antonio Police Department's (SAPD) UCR Office began compiling crime data according to NIBRS standards in November 2020. They compile the NIBRS data for submission to TxDPS monthly. As reporting crime data in compliance with NIBRS is a new standard for the SAPD, quality controls are still being finalized for crime reporting including staff training, quality assurance reviews, and performance metrics for the staff review of incident reports.

The primary responsibility of the UCR Office is to provide the Chief of Police, the Command Staff, and all levels of SAPD personnel with Uniform Crime Reporting information and analysis. The UCR Office uses the Mark43 records management system (RMS) to review and compile all crime statistics and offenses included in incident reports.

Scope & Methodology

The audit scope was from November 2020 through August 2021. We obtained a random sample of incident reports to determine if the SAPD was accurately recording crime data and reviewing incident reports. Additionally, we reviewed a random sample of arrest reports to determine if the SAPD was properly linking them to the original offense in Mark43. We also reviewed the monthly upload of crime data to TxDPS to determine if all completed incident reports were transferred from Mark43. Finally, we reviewed the status of SAPD UCR quality controls that were in development for incident report processing.

Conclusions

The SAPD is accurately collecting, calculating, and reporting crime data according to NIBRS standards. They achieved NIBRS certification on January 25, 2021 by meeting TxDPS's requirement of an error rate of less than 4% for monthly uploads of crime data. From November 2020 to August 2021, the SAPD averaged less than a 1% error rate which is well below this requirement.

However, some areas could be improved. Several crime reporting quality controls are still being developed and finalized as a part of the recently implemented NIBRS standards and Mark43 system.

We recommended the Chief of Police continue the development and finalization of quality controls for reporting crime data to facilitate NIBRS standards for the following processes: structured training program, quality assurance reviews and incident report review metrics. This should also include documentation of all significant controls.

San Antonio Police Department management agreed with the audit findings and has developed positive action plans to address them.

ISSUE:

This item is for briefing only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing only.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends acceptance of the audit.