



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**  
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**Agenda Item Number:** 3

**Agenda Date:** April 18, 2023

**In Control:** Public Safety Committee

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**DEPARTMENT:** Fire Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Charles Hood, Fire Chief

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

San Antonio Fire Department Accreditation Process

**SUMMARY:**

The San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) will brief the Public Safety Committee on process currently underway for the SAFD to remain accredited. The accreditation process is a continuous improvement process that fire departments voluntarily undertake as a process to achieve organizational excellence according to industry best practices.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) holds an ISO rating of 1 which is best possible fire protection class rating issued by the Insurance Services Organization (ISO). The criteria used to award this rating reviews the fire prevention and fire suppression capabilities of individual communities or fire protection areas. The Class 1 rating is important to property owners who may

see a reduction in their insurance premiums.

Additionally, the SAFD became accredited in March 2019 by the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) and Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). The SAFD is one of the few largest Fire Departments in the United States and Canada to be accredited and hold an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Rating of 1. Holding this prestigious designation demands that the SAFD works towards continual self-improvement in every aspect of the Department.

Accredited agencies are described as being community-focused, data-driven, outcome-focused, strategic-minded, well organized, properly equipped, and properly staffed and trained. An accreditation designation is renewed every five years. The SAFD is actively engaged in the process of renewing its accreditation.

Process to become and remain accredited

1) Become an Applicant Agency by completing three documents: a) Community Risk Assessment: Standards of Cover Document, b) Community-driven Strategic plan, and c) Self-Assessment Manual

2) Become a Candidate Agency. Once the documents are complete the applicant becomes a candidate for accreditation. The CFAI assigns a peer team to review the candidate's documents, conducts an onsite assessment, and prepares an accreditation report. The accreditation report is presented during a CFAI public hearing.

3) Becoming and Remaining an Accredited Agency. Accreditation is valid for a five-year period and every year the agency submits an annual compliance report. At the end of the five-year period, the Fire Department will repeat the steps in the Candidate Agency process.

## **ISSUE:**

The SAFD Department will brief the Public Safety Committee on the ongoing process to remain accredited. The accreditation process is a continuous improvement process that fire departments voluntarily undertake as a process to achieve organizational excellence according to industry best practices.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.