

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO OFFICE OF MAYOR IVY R. TAYLOR INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO:

Sheryl Sculley, City Manager

FROM:

Mayor Ivy R. Taylor

COPIES TO:

Members of City Council; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Martha Sepeda, Interim City

Attorney

SUBJECT:

San Antonio Police Department Immigration Policies and Procedures

DATE:

October 13, 2015

Recently questions have surfaced among my Council colleagues regarding the City of San Antonio's immigration policies and procedures, known commonly as our "sanctuary city" status. It is my understanding that the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD), through their successful application of community based policing principles and strategies, has established a practical and efficient approach to dealing with immigrants that also ensures that dangerous criminals are remanded to the appropriate authority. However, I also understand that SAPD does not have a written policy regarding their immigration procedures.

To preserve public safety and support SAPD's crime-fighting capacity, we must continue to foster an environment where everyone will feel comfortable seeking the assistance of law enforcement if needed. At the same time, the community and City Council should be able to evaluate current practice against a written policy and guidelines.

In the interest of maintaining transparency about our policies and procedures, I request that the Governance Committee receive a briefing on the steps necessary to put in place a written policy encapsulating current SAPD practice regarding immigration issues and status.

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