

**PUBLIC SAFETY  
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING  
APRIL 23, 2019  
10:00 A.M.  
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING**

**Members Present:** Councilmember Ana Sandoval, Chair, *District 7*  
Councilmember Rey Saldaña, *District 4*  
Councilmember Greg Brockhouse, *District 6*  
Councilmember John Courage, *District 9*  
Councilmember Clayton Perry, *District 10*

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**Members Absent:** None

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**Staff Present:** Maria Villagómez, *Deputy City Manager*; Joe Niño, *Deputy City Attorney*; Jim Kopp, *Assistant City Attorney*; Charles Hood, *Fire Chief, SAFD*; Carl Wedige, *Deputy Fire Chief, SAFD*; Chris Monestier, *Assistant Fire Chief, SAFD*; Michael Mullins, *Division Fire Chief, SAFD*; Robert Blanton, *Deputy Chief, SAPD*; Jesse Salame, *Lieutenant, SAPD*; Fred Garcia, *Municipal Court Clerk, Municipal Court*; Marisa Bono, *Mayor's Office*; Denice F. Treviño, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Others Present:** John Butchkosky, *Community Liaison, Texas Alliance for Human Needs*

**Call to order**

Chairwoman Sandoval called the meeting to order.

**1. Approval of the February 26, 2019 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

Councilmember Courage moved to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2019 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Citizens to be Heard**

There were no citizens registered to speak.

**Items for Consideration:**

**1. Briefing by the San Antonio Fire Department Presenting a Year to Date Assessment of Fire Activity and Statistics.** [Charles N. Hood, Fire Chief]

Charles Hood stated that fire activity had increased in 2019. He noted that there have been 19 multiple alarms, 18 second alarms, and 1 third alarm fire(s) this year. He stated that the rise in overall fire activity could be most attributed to multi-family apartment fires. Chief Hood noted that there were 1,278 structure fires in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016; 1,263 structure fires in FY 2017; and 1,338 structure fires in FY 2018. Chief Hood displayed a map indicating the number of structure fires per Council District from FY 2016 to the present and noted that the majority of structure fires occurred in Districts 1, 2, and 5. He stated that this

could be attributed to the presence of poverty, older structures, overhead power lines, and crime. He reported on the following number of structure fire related deaths:

- FY 2016 - 3 civilians
- FY 2017 - 4 civilians, 1 uniform
- FY 2018 - 8 civilians
- FY 2019 YTD - 4 civilians

He noted that one of the contributing factors to structure fires in FY 2019 was hoarding and that the following estimated overall losses were reported by Incident Commanders:

- FY 2016 - \$20,393,991
- FY 2017 - \$16,042,490
- FY 2018 - \$23,818,930

Chief Hood noted the following estimated total property saved based on Bexar County Appraisal District (BCAD) improvement values minus estimated fire property loss:

- FY 2016 - \$1,478,291,263
- FY 2017 - \$1,388,579,806
- FY 2018 - \$1,400,180,666

He reported the number of fire incidents by Fiscal YTD\* in all property types and in multi-family apartments:

	All property types	Multi-family apartments
Fiscal YTD 2017	728	139
Fiscal YTD 2018	735	149
Fiscal YTD 2019	730	155

\*Fiscal Year to Date – October 1<sup>st</sup> – April 13<sup>th</sup>

Chief Hood stated that there was an 11% increase in apartment fires and most occurred between 8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. He noted that for fires in all property types: 1) 63% were accidental; 2) 18% were due to failure of equipment or heat source; 3) 9% were undetermined; 4) 9% were intentional; and 5) 0.4% was due to an act of nature. He stated that the top five areas of origin for multi-family fire incidents were:

1. Cooking area – 23%
2. Exterior balcony – 9%
3. Bedroom – 8%
4. Common room – 6%
5. Undetermined – 6%

Chief Hood reviewed the standard of cover for high risk fires. He noted that fire incidents overall were relatively consistent with previous years. He stated that fires in multi-family apartments have been rising year over year with the trend continuing into FY 2019. He noted that the top cause of all fire incidents was unintentional human-related. He stated that targeted interventions included continued code enforcement and civilian education. He noted that meetings have been scheduled with Apartment Associations to

involve them and gain buy-in from members, provide fire safety education to members and tenants, and promote considerations of occupant services after the fire.

Councilmember Perry asked how loss estimates were developed. Chief Hood replied that the Incident Commander or Battalion Chief would estimate the loss at the time of the incident based on the building type and how much it would cost to repair or reconstruct the building. Councilmember Perry requested that insurance estimates be compared with the San Antonio Fire Department's (SAFDs) estimates to validate SAFD data. He requested validation of the data on property saved. Maria Villagómez stated that she would provide data which was available.

Councilmember Courage requested data on ownership, presence of fire suppression equipment, and age of multi-family apartments which have been involved in fire incidents.

Chairwoman Sandoval asked of unintentional human-related causes of fire incidents. Chief Hood stated that some examples of unintentional human-related causes of fire incidents included smoking, cooking, and hoarding.

No action was required for Item 2.

## **2. Update and Briefing on Operational Improvements at the Bexar County Justice Intake and Assessment Annex.** [William McManus, Chief of Police]

Robert Blanton stated that in January 2019, discussions between the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) and Bexar County transitioned to specific process improvements and design modifications regarding:

- Custody transfer
- Acceptance of public inebriates
- Acceptance of Class C Arrestees
- Property acceptance
- Expansion of DWI Area
- Additional parking for Officers

He noted that Committee Members were given tours of the Justice Intake and Assessment Annex (JIAA) in early March 2019. He stated that on April 18, 2019, SAPD met with Bexar County Officials to review the proposed JIAA Improvements. He noted that Bexar County Officials presented preliminary design plans for a structure adjacent to the existing JIAA Facility. He stated that Bexar County would construct the structure at the City's expense and would own the facility. He noted that space was identified in the structure for Class C arrestee processing, video magistration, and property storage. He stated that SAPD was currently reviewing the design plan and would provide feedback to Bexar County in early May 2019.

Fred Garcia stated that since December 2018, the City Magistration Judges have provided magistration for SAPD, Park Police, and Airport Police. He noted that Bexar County Magistration Judges have previously provided magistration for Bexar County Arrestees. He stated that today, the Bexar County Commissioners Court would consider contracting with City Magistration Judges for magistration services for the Sheriff's Office, and Area Law Enforcement Officers. He noted that if the Bexar County Commissioners Court votes to approve utilizing City Magistration Judges for Bexar County Arrestees; an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) would be brought before the full City Council for consideration.

Councilmember Courage asked of the process for the magistration of Bexar County Arrestees. Mr. Garcia stated that Bexar County Arrestees would be magistrated at the JIAA via a video feed with City Magistration Judges.

Councilmember Perry asked if SAPD, Park Police, and Airport Police could operate at the JIAA. Deputy Chief Blanton replied that they could but there would be delays in placing Officers back in service. Councilmember Perry stated that the JIAA should be used for magistration for SAPD, Park Police, Airport Police, and Area Law Enforcement. He noted that he would not support building a new facility for the City.

Maria Villagómez stated that staff and SAPD were looking at ways to process City Arrestees at the JIAA. She noted that efficient and effective processing of City Arrestees was the goal and that she would provide an update in 60 days.

Councilmember Saldaña spoke of the negative consequences of utilizing the JIAA at this time and cautioned against making any decisions too quickly.

Councilmember Brockhouse stated that one facility should be utilized as quickly as possible and expressed support for upgrading the JIAA for use by the City.

Councilmember Courage requested more discussion with Bexar County regarding an upgrade to the JIAA. He spoke of the necessity to make upgrades which would last for 5-15 years and planning for a location for Municipal Court.

Chairwoman Sandoval requested an update on each of the issues raised regarding the JIAA. She asked if the process at JIAA had improved in regard to Officer time spent at the facility. Deputy Chief Blanton replied that Officer time spent at the JIAA has not changed.

No action was required for Item 3.

## **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

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*Ana Sandoval, Chair*

***Respectfully Submitted***

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***Denice F. Trevino, Office of the City Clerk***