

**PUBLIC SAFETY
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2019
6:00 PM
JOHN JAY HIGH SCHOOL**

Members Present:	Councilmember Ana Sandoval, Chair, <i>District 7</i> Councilmember Jada Andrews-Sullivan, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Melissa Cabello Havrda, <i>District 6</i> Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i>
Members Absent:	Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i>
Staff Present:	Maria Villagómez, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Michael Shannon, <i>Director, Development Services Department</i> ; David Newman, <i>Deputy Director, Solid Waste Management Department</i> ; Edward Gonzales, <i>Assistant Director, Department of Human Services</i> ; Shannon Sims, <i>Assistant Director, Animal Care Services</i> ; Shreya Shah, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; William McManus, <i>Chief of Police, SAPD</i> ; Robert Blanton, <i>Deputy Chief, SAPD</i> ; Jesse Salame, <i>Lieutenant, SAPD</i> ; Denice F. Treviño, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Iris Dimmick, <i>Rivard Report</i> ; Patrick Wigmore, <i>Homebase</i> ; Alicia Lehmer, <i>Homebase</i> ; Irma Hofmann, <i>Historic Westside Resident Association</i> ; Teri Castillo, <i>Historic Westside Resident Association</i>

Call to order

Chairwoman Sandoval called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the Minutes from the Public Safety Committee Meeting on September 20, 2019

Councilmember Perry moved to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2019 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the Public Safety Committee Meeting on October 15, 2019

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan moved to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2019 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Items for Briefing and Possible Action:

3. Briefing on the Department of Human Services (DHS) Homeless Programs to Include Coordinated Encampment Outreach and Alternative Giving Initiatives. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services]

Edward Gonzales stated that a Point-in-Time Count was held in January of each year by the City in conjunction with the South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless and Bexar County. He presented the following data from the Point-in-Time Count for 2018 and 2019:

Snapshot	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
2018	1,713	1,353	3,066
2019	1,685	1,187	2,872
	2% decrease	12% decrease	6% decrease

Mr. Gonzales noted that the Point-in-Time Count was broken down into the following categories:

Snapshot	Veterans	Chronic	Youth	Families
2018	228	479	162	232
2019	215	343	98	274
	6% decrease	28% decrease	40% decrease	18% increase

Mr. Gonzales noted that community volunteers and the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) assisted in the Point-in-Time Count. He reviewed the outreach and resources provided to the homeless. He stated that the City allocated \$15 million for the homeless from the General Fund and grants as follows:

- \$5.1 million for Haven for Hope
- \$3.2 million for other providers
- \$3.1 million for Haven for Hope Campus Partners
- \$2.4 million for Haven for Hope Martin Street Capital Funding
- \$733,000 for the Department of Human Services
- \$560,000 reserve for Strategic Plan identified gaps
- \$500,000 to address homelessness of families

Mr. Gonzales noted that the Encampment Outreach Initiative consisted of the following four steps: 1) identification of an encampment; 2) outreach to homeless individuals; 3) restoring/cleaning the identified encampment; and 4) maintenance of services to homeless and the area where the encampment was identified. He stated that the following City departments and homeless providers coordinated the Encampment Outreach Initiative:

- Human Services
- Transportation and Capital Improvements
- Solid Waste Management
- SAPD
- Parks and Recreation
- Animal Control Services
- Development Services
- Haven for Hope
- SAMMinistries
- Thrive Youth Centers

Mr. Gonzales noted that \$595,000 was spent in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 for Encampment Outreach Services. He stated that since inception of the initiative, a total of 485 outreach events have been held from FY 2017-2019 with 1,076 homeless identified. He noted that a total of 215 or 20% of the homeless identified utilized services at Haven for Hope. He stated that since 2018, IMPACT and the Homeless Outreach Positive Encounters (HOPE) Team of SAPD were responsible for:

- 6,352 contacts
- 6,268 referrals
- 1,175 Texas ID recoveries
- 400 birth certificates issued

He noted that these programs focused on coordinating basic services, building trust, and assistance. He stated that in May 2019, the Human Services Department launched the “Change the Way We Give” Alternative Giving Campaign as a meaningful way for residents to give to organizations serving people experiencing homelessness.

Councilmember Perry asked if the total homeless investment of \$15 million was supported by the General Fund and grants. Mr. Gonzales replied that the City spent \$35 million for the homeless response which included the costs associated with the homeless for SAPD, and the San Antonio Fire Department.

Councilmember Perry requested a count of homeless within the City of San Antonio from the Point-in-Time Count since the total Point-in-Time Count was for Bexar County. Mr. Gonzales replied that he would provide that information. Councilmember Perry requested a report on all funds expended regarding the homeless response. Councilmember Perry asked if the Bexar County District Attorney had a policy on criminal trespassing by the homeless. Lieutenant Salame replied that the District Attorney would prosecute the homeless for Trespassing on private property and for Criminal Trespassing if accompanied by violence or crime. Councilmember Perry recommended that funding be provided for clean up on private property.

Chairwoman Sandoval requested a memorandum from the District Attorney regarding Bexar County’s policy for criminal trespassing. Maria Villagómez stated that she would make that request.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan requested the number of homeless by shelter. She asked if San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE) Officers performed sweeps for areas where previous encampments existed. Chief McManus stated that SAFFE Officers monitored all areas. Mr. Gonzales added that staff were reviewing options to prevent encampments in drainage culverts.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked how the City searched for encampments along the creekways. Mr. Gonzales replied that Parks and Recreation Trail Stewards would note any encampments discovered along creekways. Councilmember Cabello Havrda requested periodic updates on the Alternative Giving Campaign.

Public Comment

Michael Coorearans spoke of absent property owners and the need to hold them responsible.

Councilmember Sandoval asked how the Vacant Building Ordinance might be expanded. Maria Villagómez stated that she would provide an overview of properties covered by the Ordinance and the options for expanding the Ordinance.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked if properties along Old Highway 90 were included in the Vacant Building Ordinance. Ms. Villagómez stated that she would provide a map with the areas covered by the Ordinance.

Chairwoman Sandoval stated that Councilmember Perry previously requested staff for his district to provide outreach to the homeless and asked of the progress of the request. Mr. Gonzales stated that a Pilot Program for a Mental Health Clinician was dedicated to Council Districts 2 and 10 was hired and partnered with SAFFE Officers to address mental health and substance abuse. Ms. Villagómez noted that a comprehensive strategic plan for the homeless would be developed and recommendations would be made to the City Council in April 2020.

4. Briefing on the San Antonio Police Department Mental Health Unit. [Maria Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Chairwoman Sandoval stated that this item would be addressed at the next Committee meeting in January 2020.

Consideration of Items for Future Meetings

There were no items for future meetings considered.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Ana Sandoval, Chair

Respectfully Submitted

Denice F. Trevino, Office of the City Clerk