

**PUBLIC SAFETY  
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING  
JANUARY 29, 2021  
10:00 AM  
VIDEOCONFERENCE**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Councilmember Melissa Cabello Havrda, <i>Chair, District 6</i> Councilmember Jada Andrews-Sullivan, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Ana Sandoval, <i>District 7</i> Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i>
<b>Members Absent:</b>	None
<b>Staff Present:</b>	María Villagómez, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Colleen Bridger, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; David McCary, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Liz Provencio, <i>First Assistant City Attorney</i> ; William P. McManus, <i>Chief of Police</i> ; Jim Kopp, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Jeff Coyle, <i>Director, Government and Public Affairs</i> ; Craig Hopkins, <i>Chief Information Officer, ITSD</i> ; Laura Mayes, <i>Assistant Director, Government and Public Affairs</i> ; Berta Rodriguez, <i>External Affairs Manager, Government and Public Affairs</i>
<b>Others Present:</b>	Chris Tatham, <i>ETC Institute</i>

**Call to order**

Chairwoman Cabello Havrda called the meeting to order.

**1. Approval of minutes from the Public Safety Committee meeting on December 15, 2020**

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan moved to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2020 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Sandoval seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment**

**Written Testimony**

Public Comments have been submitted through the eComment system and are attached to the Minutes.

**Live Testimony**

There were no citizens registered to speak.

**Items for Consideration**

- 2. Briefing and Possible Action on Police Services Review Community Engagement Strategy.** [Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager; Jeff Coyle, Director, Government and Public Affairs]

Laura Mayes stated that the community engagement goal was to gather input from the community to inform recommendations to the City Council Public Safety Committee on the community's expectations of the role of police and response alternatives for responding to potential calls. She reported that the City would receive input regarding police encounters through many formats and venues to inform changes such as: 1) Scientific Survey; 2) Neighborhood meetings; 3) Community conversations y plática; 4) Telephone town hall meetings; 5) Stakeholder group meetings; and 6) Focus groups with users of SAPD services.

Ms. Mayes reported that a scientific survey would be conducted in February 2021 followed by neighborhood meetings, and telephone town hall meetings in March-April 2021. She indicated that community conversations y plática, and stakeholder group meetings would be held from March-May 2021.

Ms. Mayes stated that the City had contracted with the ETC Institute to conduct a scientific survey and the results would be presented to the Public Safety Committee and the City Council.

Berta Rodriguez reported that neighborhood meetings would be held in each Council District and would be centered around neighborhood association meetings. She noted that at the meetings, discussions would be held with the Councilmember and the staff of the City Manager's Office and the meetings would be moderated by the Government and Public Affairs staff. She stated that findings of the scientific study would be discussed and prompts to guide the discussion would be provided.

Ms. Rodriguez stated that staff proposed to host four citywide meetings made up of diverse groups of people. She indicated that the meetings would be virtual and socially distanced access would be provided at libraries. She added that the meetings would include a brief presentation by City staff and breakout sessions would be held with live audience polling.

Ms. Mayes stated that staff proposed to host two telephone town hall meetings which would be open to the public and conducted by phone. She noted that the meetings would include a brief presentation by staff and could be accessed by inbound calling, pre-registration, and robocalls to targeted areas. She added that the meetings would include live audience polling and a question and answer session.

Ms. Rodriguez reported that the Plática Con Nuestra Comunidad Platform would mirror the community meetings and would be held in Spanish. She stated that staff would collaborate with organizations which served Spanish-speaking residents.

Ms. Mayes stated that the logistics for the community meetings, community conversations, and Plática Con Nuestra Comunidad would include:

- Language – English, Spanish, American Sign Language, and other languages upon request
- TV – Broadcast on TVSA, and available to local media via LiveU
- Livestream – Stream on City website, and stream on Facebook
- Telephone – Available to listen by phone

Ms. Mayes reported that the community meetings, community conversations, and Plática Con Nuestra Comunidad would be promoted through the news media, digital media, grassroots, social media, and targeted advertising.

Ms. Rodriguez stated that staff would meet with leaders of specific stakeholder organizations in the following categories:

- Social justice and advocacy
- Police reform
- Black/African American community
- LGBTQ+ community
- Immigrants and refugees
- Individuals with disabilities
- Seniors
- Youth
- Veterans
- Chambers and business community
- Faith-based

Ms. Mayes reported that staff would engage non-profit service providers with expertise in the key areas of homelessness, mental health, and domestic violence for input on alternative responses.

Ms. Rodriguez stated that staff would: 1) Determine what data/information existed and how it was being utilized by residents; 2) Determine what data/information needs residents had and pain points in accessing it; 3) Identify how residents wanted to access data/information and the usable formats desired; and 4) Analyze all digital access points.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda expressed concern regarding the amount of time allotted for public input. She requested that the community be given a longer period of time to provide input. Deputy City Attorney Maria Villagomez stated that the timeline was aligned with the FY 2022 Budget process.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked if accommodations could be made for those who were hearing and sight-impaired. Ms. Mayes stated that staff would work with the Disability Access Office to provide accommodations.

Councilmember Viagran suggested that Neighborhood Engagement Team Members and Community Health Workers be utilized for outreach to the community. She asked which City staff would be present at the meetings. Ms. Villagomez stated that the City Manager, herself, a representative of the Government and Public Affairs Department, Dr. Colleen Bridger, Chief McManus, the City Attorney, and David McCary would be present at the meetings. Councilmember Viagran stated that she approved alignment of the timeline with the FY 2022 Budget process.

Councilmember Sandoval asked of the status of recruitment for the two positions in the Police Department approved in the FY 2021 Budget for public engagement. Chief McManus stated that the uniformed position had been filled and interviews would begin for the civilian position. He reported that the individual in the uniformed position had interacted with the public at a large number of meetings. Councilmember Sandoval requested information on the public engagement performed by that individual.

Councilmember Perry expressed concern regarding the short timeline and holding only one meeting per Council District. He stated that he would like to see an expanded timeline.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan moved to approve the community engagement strategy to include amendments for additional meetings, extension of the timeline, and to explore an alternative to WebEx meetings. Councilmember Sandoval seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

**AYE:** 2 - Andrews-Sullivan. Cabello Havrda. Sandoval

**NAY:** 1 - Perry

**ABSTAIN:** 1 - Viagran

**3. Briefing and Possible Action on Police Services Scientific Survey.** [Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager; Jeff Coyle, Director, Government and Public Affairs]

Chris Tatham stated that the ETC Institute was a national leader in market research for local governmental organizations that assisted city and county governments in gathering data and utilizing the data to enhance organizational performance. He reported that the ETC Institute had surveyed more than 2.5 million individuals for more than 1,000 communities in all 50 states including 22 of the 36 U.S. cities with populations of more than 500,000 residents and the nine largest cities in Texas.

Mr. Tatham stated that the survey was designed to understand resident expectations of police encounters with the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) and the appropriate role of SAPD to keep the community safe. He noted that the results would be used to inform recommendations to City Council on potential calls that could be handled by a non-Police Officer or to augment police response with other non-law enforcement.

Mr. Tatham indicated that individuals would be selected for the survey utilizing addressed-based sampling. He noted that sampling would be stratified to ensure that the results were representative of each City Council District with at least 100 addresses surveyed per Council District for a total of 1,067 administered citywide. He explained that the sample size would be representative of the City's diverse population and the survey would be conducted in English and Spanish.

Mr. Tatham reported that the survey would be administered by mail with a random sample size of at least 5,000 (500 per district). He noted that residents would be able to complete the survey by mail, online, or by calling a toll-free number. He stated that to ensure participation, a follow-up contact would be made by email and by phone. He added that geographics and demographics would be monitored to ensure that Council Districts and demographic groups were well represented.

Mr. Tatham stated that the ETC Institute would provide clients with a data dashboard of results of the survey. He reviewed the five components of the survey and the questions to be asked on the survey. He reported that the survey would be finalized on January 31, 2021 and the ETC Institute would provide the report in early March 2021.

Chairwoman Cabello Havrda asked if demographic information could be reviewed separately for Spanish-speaking and English-speaking respondents. She requested that the different survey methods be broken down. Mr. Tatham stated that the information would be available.

Councilmember Perry noted that the questions were not open-ended and he was satisfied with the survey. He expressed concern that the time period for the survey was not long enough.

Councilmember Viagran asked why the term "homeless" was not included in question eight. Ms. Villagomez stated that the term was omitted because the Office of Equity suggested that the term could be

defined or perceived as a crime. Mr. Tatham stated that “other” could be added to question eight if there were concerns regarding the omission of “homeless”.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked how surveyors would know if individuals in targeted areas had barriers other than language. Mr. Tatham stated that a follow-up would be provided. Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan spoke of the reluctance of undocumented individuals to complete the survey.

Councilmember Sandoval asked how the results of the survey were intended to be used. Ms. Villagomez stated that survey results would be utilized to inform the City Council of resident’s opinions on the role of Police Officers, neighborhood safety, customer service, and on subjects not covered in the survey. Councilmember Sandoval suggested that “other” be included in question six.

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve the administration of the Scientific Survey in February 2021 with the modifications requested by Committee Members. Councilmember Sandoval seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Consideration of items for future meetings**

Councilmember Viagran requested that street racing be discussed at a future meeting.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 am.

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*Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair*

*Respectfully Submitted*

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