

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, PUBLIC SAFETY AND SERVICES COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING SEPTEMBER 2, 2015
11:00 A.M.
MUNICIPAL PLAZA ROOM B

Members Present: Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, Chair, *District 3*
Councilmember Roberto Treviño, *District 1*
Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, *District 5*
Councilmember Ray Lopez, *District 6*
Councilmember Mike Gallagher, *District 10*

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Peter Zaroni, *Deputy City Manager*; James Kopp, *Assistant City Attorney*; Anthony Treviño, *Interim Police Chief, SAPD*; Anthony Muro, *Deputy Chief, SAPD*; Joery Smittick, *Deputy Chief, SAPD*; Geraldine Garcia, *Assistant Police Chief, SAPD*; Jose Bañales, *Assistant Police Chief, SAPD*; Steve Baum, *Assistant Director, SAPD*; Mike Frisbie, *Director, Transportation and Capital Improvements Department*; Terry Bellamy, *Assistant Director, Transportation and Capital Improvements Department*; Jim Mery, *Deputy Director, Center City Development and Operations*; Fred Garcia, *Court Clerk, Municipal Court*; Javier Salazar, *Sergeant, SAPD*; Denice F. Trevino, *Office of the City Clerk*

Others present: Eric Johnson, *WOAI TV*; Johnny Shannon, *Reporter, KTSA*;

Call to order

Chairperson Viagran called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Minutes of the August 12, 2015 Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Services Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Gallagher moved to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2015 Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Services Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Treviño seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens registered to speak.

Items for Consideration:

2. Briefing and Possible Action on Councilman Gallagher's Council Consideration Request (CCR) on the Creation of Safe Exchange Zones at Police Substations [Presented by Anthony Treviño, Interim Police Chief]

Interim Chief Anthony Treviño stated that on May 12, 2015, Councilmember Gallagher issued a Council Consideration Request (CCR) on the establishment of Safe Exchange Zones (Safe Zones). He noted that

the Safe Zones would help citizens safely broker transactions with strangers and would be located at Police Substations. He stated that online exchanges (purchase and sale) via Craigslist, Oodle, Recycler, Pawngo, etc. have risen. He noted that though the majority of said exchanges were legitimate and safe, nationwide, there had been several instances of such transactions turning into violent encounters. He stated that the establishment of Safe Zones was a growing nationwide trend. He listed the following training and outreach which would be performed:

- Internal training at Police Substations
- PSAs and media releases
- Safety information

Councilmember Gallagher stated that it was important to relate the Safety Information to citizens.

Chairperson Viagran asked of the logistics of the Safe Zones. Chief Treviño stated that there would be designated parking spaces in the Substation Parking Lot where surveillance cameras were located. He noted that exchanges could also be made in the Substation Lobby. Chairperson Viagran asked if there was a need for extra staff to employ the Safe Zones. Chief Treviño replied that additional staff was not required to staff the Safe Zones.

Councilmember Lopez asked if San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) Store Fronts could be utilized as Safe Zones. Chief Treviño replied that they could not because they were not staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Councilmember Lopez recommended that if there were a demand for more Safe Zones in the future, the SAPD Store Fronts might be considered as additional Safe Zones to be funded from next year's budget.

Councilmember Gallagher moved to approve and forward the establishment of Safe Exchange Zones to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember Treviño seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Briefing on the San Antonio Police Department's Hand's Free Ordinance Public Education Campaign and Signage [Presented by Anthony Treviño, Interim Police Chief & Terry Bellamy, Transportation and Capital Improvements (TCI) Assistant Director]

Chief Treviño stated that on August 20, 2015, Councilmember Gallagher submitted a CCR requesting a ban on the use of mobile communication devices unless utilized in a "hands-free" capacity. He noted that the City Council approved said Ordinance on November 6, 2014. He stated that the Ordinance became effective on January 1, 2015 and included a 30-day grace period. He reported that approximately 6,400 citations and 1,800 warnings had been issued in the first five months of 2015. He stated that that SAPD produced a series of Public Service Announcements (PSAs) titled "Keep 'Em on the Wheel" and social media outlets were utilized to promote the same message. He noted that SAPD encouraged media ride-alongs and TXDoT Transguide Signage and billboards were utilized to reach daily commuters.

Mike Frisbie stated that staff has assessed the option of installing regulatory signage at the City's entry points and were working closely with TXDoT regarding sign requirements, specifications and cost. He noted that the signage would be focused on main entrances to the City such as Highways, State Roadways and Major Arterials. He reported that 300 signs would be required at a cost of \$150,000. He

stated that staff would work on the wording for the signs which would note the existence of the “Hands-Free” Ordinance.

Chairperson Viagran asked if Car Rental Companies were making their users aware of said “Hands-Free” Ordinance. Chief Treviño replied that he did not know but would follow up with the Airport Police to find out. Chairperson Viagran asked of the size of the signs. Terry Bellamy replied that the speed limit on the Designated Highway, State Roadway or Major Arterial would determine the size of the signs. He noted that locating signage at the Airport and the Train Station was discussed by staff.

Councilmember Gallagher stressed the importance of public education and suggested that signage be located within the City as well.

Councilmember Lopez suggested that the fine associated with the “Hands-Free” Ordinance be included on signage and the message be relayed on School District Campuses. Chief Treviño stated that SAPD had partnered with AT&T to deliver the message in schools. He noted that SAPD had partnered with TXDoT in relaying public information.

Councilmember Gonzales expressed support for a Public Education Campaign.

Peter Zanoni stated that there was no funding currently available for said signage. Chairperson Viagran suggested that the Public Education Campaign be initiated immediately. Mr. Zanoni noted that funding for the signage would be included on the Budget Amendments List.

Councilmember Treviño suggested the use of technology to send Public Education Campaign Alerts to Smart phones. Mr. Bellamy stated that an estimate of the cost of this would be presented to the Committee.

No action was required for Item 3.

4. Briefing on the San Antonio Police Department’s (SAPD) Efforts to Address the Use of Synthetic Marijuana [Presented by Anthony Treviño, Interim Police Chief]

Chief Treviño stated that Synthetic Marijuana first entered national markets in 2006 and was designed to mimic the effects of Marijuana. He noted that Synthetic Marijuana did not contain THC, the active ingredient in Marijuana. He stated that other chemical compounds were substituted to otherwise leafy material in Synthetic Marijuana and nicknames included “Spice”, “Spice Gold”, “K2” and “Kush”. He explained that the lure of synthetic products was that they: 1) Provided similar effects as Marijuana; and 2) Did not appear in Urine Analysis Testing. He reported that Synthetic Marijuana was:

- Sold online, in Tobacco Stores, in Convenience Stores
- Sold as incense and labeled “not for human consumption”

He noted that producers were able to alter composition to conform to parameters of State Law/City Ordinances. He reviewed the following negative side effects produced by Synthetic Marijuana:

- Persons under the influence become combative/violent
- May suffer medical complications such as seizures
- May cause altered mental state, psychosis, sedation or agitation

Chief Treviño reported that in 2011, Senate Bill 331 designated Synthetic Marijuana as a controlled substance under the Texas Controlled Substances Act and both the Cities of Dallas and Houston have passed Ordinances banning Synthetic Marijuana. He noted that the City of Houston had no specific enforcement strategy/efforts at this time and stated that the City of Dallas had issued Roll Call Training Bulletins. He noted that enforcement was difficult because there was no presumptive test for Synthetic Marijuana. He proposed that staff work with the Bexar County District Attorney's Office to develop programs/strategies. He stated that SAPD would provide an update to the Committee on enforcement efforts, coordination with the Bexar County District Attorney's Office, and a proposed City Ordinance in October 2015.

Chairperson Viagran asked that an update on drug paraphernalia and where it could be sold be brought before the Committee. Chief Treviño replied that an update would be provided to the Committee.

Councilmember Gonzales asked how much Synthetic Marijuana had to be consumed to obtain the desired effect. Chief Treviño replied that the level of intoxication was not consistent and was dependent on the individual product.

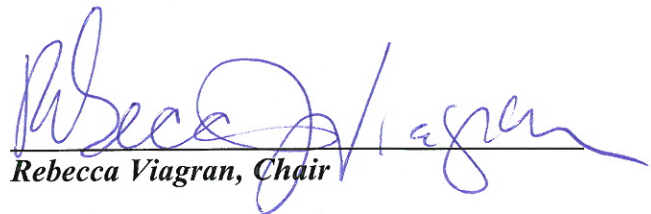
No action was required for Item 4.

Consideration of Items for Future Meetings

Chairperson Viagran stated that items dealing with issues related to the San Antonio Fire Department would be considered at future meetings of the Committee.

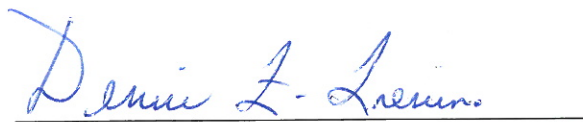
Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.



Rebecca Viagran, Chair

Respectfully Submitted,



Denise F. Trevino, Office of the City Clerk