

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND SERVICES
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 8, 2016
10:00 A.M.
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING, B ROOM**

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

Members Absent: Councilmember Ray Lopez, *District 6*

Staff Present: Erik Walsh, *Deputy City Manager*; William McManus, *Police Chief, SAPD*; Charles Hood, *Fire Chief, SAFD*; Vance Meade, *Deputy Chief, SAFD*; Melody Woosley, *Director, Department of Human Services*; Steve Baum, *Assistant Director, SAPD*; Kevin Goodwin, *Interim Director, ITSD*; John Rodriguez, *Assistant Director, ITSD*; Denice F. Treviño, *Office of the City Clerk*

Others Present: Bill Buchholtz, *Bexar Metro*; Jimmy Hasslocher, *President, Bexar Metro*; Mike Pedigo, *City Attorney's Office, Bexar Metro*

Call to order

Chairperson Viagran called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the October 18, 2016 Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Gallagher moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2016 Criminal Justice, Public Safety, and Services Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

2. Briefing on the Bexar Metro 911 Interlocal Agreement. [Presented by Erik Walsh, Deputy City Manager]

John Rodriguez stated that the City of San Antonio (CoSA) and Bexar Metro each provides, installs, and maintains the 9-1-1 System or PSAP Equipment at Brooks City Base (Brooks Public Safety Answering Points)(PSAP) and the Quarry Run Regional Operations Center (Quarry Run PSAP), respectively. He noted that each PSAP Center could serve as an emergency backup facility for the other and as backup to other PSAPs. He stated that both centers were designed to provide uninterrupted 9-1-1 Services during various emergencies, including terrorist attacks and natural disasters. He noted that the new Quarry PSAP was scheduled to be operational in January 2017. He stated that approval on an Interlocal agreement (ILA) between CoSA and Bexar Metro would define the roles and responsibilities of each for the installation, maintenance,

and operation of the 9-1-1 System and PSAPs. He noted that the agreement would allow for swift action and effective solutions for issues that may arise at the facilities or with the systems. He noted that it would set and manage a clear set of expectations regarding service delivery, performance, timelines and scope of work for both CoSA and Bexar County. He presented the following Interlocal Agreement highlights:

- Memorializes requirements under existing State Law
- ILA defines roles, responsibilities and operation of each facility for call-taking and dispatch operations
- Both facilities act as emergency backups to each other
- Future capabilities would allow CoSA to operate from both facilities simultaneously for redundancy during catastrophic events

He stated that the next step was to introduce an ordinance requesting adoption of the ILA.

Jimmy Hasslocher stated that this was the best backup center in the nation and had taken years of planning. He stated that various law enforcement personnel would utilize the backup center and provided a brief history of the 9-1-1 System. He offered tours of the backup center to the Committee and thanked everyone for their support.

Chairperson Viagran asked Erik Walsh if the Committee would be briefed on the Public Safety System and the Radio Network. Mr. Walsh replied that a briefing would be provided to the City Council by the end of November or the beginning of December 2016.

Councilmember Gallagher moved to recommend and forward the ILA between CoSA and Bexar County to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Briefing on Councilman Gallagher's Council Consideration Request on Aggressive Panhandling. [Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police]

Chief McManus stated that the Aggressive Solicitation Ordinance prohibited the use of sustained verbal and physical intimidation.

He stated that an offense was committed if a person solicited:

- In an aggressive manner in a public area such as:
 - Marked crosswalks
 - Parking garages
 - ATMs
 - Banks
 - Bus stops
 - Parking meters/pay stations
 - Outdoor dining areas
 - Charitable campaign meters

- Within 50 feet of areas where the public was considered vulnerable or if it interfered with the flow of traffic

Chief McManus provided a comparison of similar ordinances in Major Cities in Texas and noted that none prohibited panhandling unless done in an aggressive manner. He stated that since 2014; 11,306 citations had been issued. He provided the following overview of citations issued for violation of the ordinance:

| VIOLATION | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Soliciting from occupants of vehicles | 3,446 | 3,060 | 1,935 |
| Aggressive solicitation | 342 | 406 | 219 |
| Aggressive solicitation in certain areas | 711 | 869 | 318 |

Chief McManus stated that an offense was a Class C Misdemeanor and carried a maximum fine of \$500.00. He noted that enforcement of the ordinance has had limited long-term effect in deterring panhandling due to the continuous cycle created by the arrest of violators. He stated that this results in the issuance of a fine and immediate release by Municipal Court. He noted that oftentimes, violators were back on the street within hours of being arrested. He stated that calls for violations have decreased in 2016; with 9,100 calls received to date. He noted that in the Downtown Area the contributing factor has been Synthetic Marijuana. He stated that the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) entered into a Synthetic Drug Initiative with the Bexar County District Attorney's Office which allows individuals in possession of these drugs to be arrested. He noted that since inception on September 1, 2016; there have been a total of 106 arrests made and 3,238 grams of Synthetic Marijuana seized. He stated that another contributing factor was mental and substance abuse issues. He noted that the IMPACT (Integrated Mobile Partners Action Care Team)/HOPE (Homeless Outreach Positive Encounters) Teams were created to address these issues. He stated that IMPACT dealt with homelessness, mental illness, and addiction issues, while HOPE dealt with homelessness. He noted that of the 379 referral made to date, 74% have been to the following organizations: 1) Haven for Hope; 2) Crisis Health Center; 3) Nix Hospital; 4) Methodist Hospital; and 5) the Salvation Army. He stated that other initiatives included the Haven for Hope Initiative, Five Points Initiative, and the IH 35 Initiative. He noted that in response to efforts in the Downtown Area; panhandling activity has shifted to outlying areas due to avoidance of police by the homeless. He stated that SAFFE (San Antonio Fear Free Environment) proactively identified major intersections where this was identified. He noted that SAPD worked with Haven for Hope to provide information on available services to the homeless. He presented the following number of contacts made regarding the homeless:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Number of contacts | 1,036 |
| Refused services | 337 |
| Referrals | 379 |
| ED's | 141 |
| Sobering/detox | 179 |

Chief McManus stated that the Department of Human Services, in coordination with Bexar County, had introduced proposed State Legislation for funding to improve the commitment process and access to substance abuse and mental illness treatment for the chronically homeless. He noted that SAPD would continue to enforce the existing Panhandling Ordinance while also focusing on the following:

- Public Awareness Campaign
- Proactive community service
- SAFFE outreach and social service engagement
- Support State Legislation for additional resources

Chief McManus stated that SAPD was partnering with merchants and residents to post “No Trespassing” signs. He noted that SAPD was seeking \$5 million in funding from the State for long-term treatment and services for the homeless. He stated that there were 200 chronically homeless individuals which were high utilizers of their services. He added that SAPD could not arrest this issue away. He spoke of the cost of an Officers time, for arrests made. He stated that there was no jail time or fines for arrest of the homeless. He played a video of the homeless in San Diego, California.

Chairperson Viagran stated that we must formulate a comprehensive strategy to combat homelessness.

Councilmember Gallagher asked if the outcome would be different if this offense was a Class B Misdemeanor. Chief Mc Manus replied that it would but would have to be brought before the State Legislature to make that change. Councilmember Gallagher stressed the importance of public education in dealing with the homeless. He stated that the homeless in Albuquerque were invited to clean up streets and were paid for their services. He noted that approximately 80% responded positively to that offer.

Erik Walsh stated that SAPD and the Parks and Recreation Department would partner to develop a pilot program which would mirror what the City of Albuquerque was doing. He noted that Municipal Court Judges would have to be brought on board with such a program. He stated that an update on said pilot program would be presented to the Committee in January 2017.

Chairperson Viagran asked of the data for calls and arrests in other Texas Cities. Chief McManus stated that those numbers would be low. Councilmember Viagran requested the data.

Melody Woosley stated that the Department of Human Services (DHS) would partner with faith-based organizations to provide services to the homeless.

Councilmember Gonzales asked what could be done if a homeless person makes a false claim against a driver. Chief McManus stated that such a claim would be thoroughly investigated and the person could be charged with making a false report.

Councilmember Treviño asked of the cost of an Officer’s time when arresting a homeless person. Chief McManus stated that the cost was approximately \$94.00 per arrest for an Officer’s time

spent arresting a homeless person. Councilmember Treviño requested an overview of services provided by DHS and other entities to the homeless. Erik Walsh stated that such an overview would be presented in January 2017.

Councilmember Gallagher reminded everyone that professional panhandling was occurring.

Chairperson Viagran asked for a review of State Bills for the Legislative Session regarding the homeless.

No action was required for Item 3.

4. Briefing and Update on Shotspotter Pilot Program. [Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police]

Chief McManus stated that the Shotspotter Pilot Program (Pilot Program) began on April 29, 2016. He noted that there were two coverage areas of the Eastside and the Westside. He stated that the technology utilized provides a real time location of gunfire and audio clips. He noted that on the Eastside; there were 54 instances of gunfire identified by the shotspotter; 41 instances of gunfire identified by residents for a total of 97 instances of gunfire identified. He reported that on the Westside; there were 105 instances of gunfire identified by the shotspotter; 22 instances of gunfire identified by residents for a total of 167 instances of gunfire identified. He reviewed the following responses by SAPD:

- Search area to identify potential suspects and victims
- Identify and collect evidence
- Canvass witnesses in immediate area
- Leave door hangers with program information
- Write incident report

He stated that the combined instances of gunfire on the Eastside and Westside identified strictly by shotspotter alone was 33%. He noted that the combined instances of gunfire on the Eastside and Westside identified strictly by residents was 13%. He stated that the combined instances of gunfire on the Eastside and Westside identified by shotspotter and by residents was 54%. He added that two arrests for felony possession were made based on Shotspotter Identification.

Chairperson Viagran asked if the shotspotter could differentiate between gunfire and the backfiring of a car. Chief McManus replied that it could and was very reliable. Chairperson Viagran asked of the price of each shotspotter. Mr. Walsh stated that each shotspotter cost \$175,000.

Councilmember Treviño asked if citizen input related to the shotspotter was collected. Chief McManus replied that it was not collected. Councilmember Treviño discussed the advantages of collecting such data to gauge the resident's fear of crime. Mr. Walsh stated that SAPD could begin to collect that data.

Chairperson Viagran asked for a presentation of the results of the data collected.

No action was required for Item 4.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.



Rebecca Viagran, Chair

Respectfully Submitted



Denice F. Trevino, Office of the City Clerk