

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND SERVICES  
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING  
JUNE 7, 2017  
11:00 A.M.  
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING**

**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:** Roderick Sanchez, *Assistant City Manager*; James Flavin, *Assistant Chief of Police, SAPD*; Melody Woosley, *Director, Department of Human Services*; Edward Gonzales, *Assistant Director, Department of Human Services*; Denice F. Treviño, *Office of the City Clerk*

**Others Present:** Rocio Guenther, *Reporter, Rivard Report*; Jeff Sullivan, *Reporter, Rivard Report*; Gwen Schuler, *MCO Director, City of Tacoma*

**Call to order**

Chairperson Viagran called the meeting to order.

**1. Approval of the May 17, 2017 Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Services Committee Meeting Minutes**

Councilmember Gallagher moved to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2017 Criminal Justice, Public Safety, and Services Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

**Items for Consideration:**

**2. Update on Homeless Encampment Outreach and Panhandling** [Maria Villagómez, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services]

Edward Gonzales stated that in January 2017, the San Antonio Regional Alliance for the Homeless and the City of San Antonio conducted a Point in Time (PIT) count of the homeless in the city. He noted that this was a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He presented the following results of the PIT count:

Persons Surveyed	Sheltered	Unsheltered
2,743	1,641	Safe sleeping count: 661 Street/encampments count: 441

Mr. Gonzales stated that of the 441 homeless living on the street or encampments; most were suffering from mental illness, substance abuse, or chronic homelessness. He presented the following PIT Comparable City Analysis:

<b>2017 PIT DATA</b>	<b>San Antonio Bexar County</b>	<b>Austin Travis County</b>	<b>Houston Harris County</b>	<b>Dallas Dallas County</b>	<b>Phoenix Maricopa County</b>
Sheltered	1,641	1,202	2,328	2,683	3,546
Unsheltered street count	441	834	1,084	1,087	2,059
Unsheltered safe sleeping count	661	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,743</b>	<b>2,036</b>	<b>3,412</b>	<b>3,071</b>	<b>5,605</b>

Mr. Gonzales noted that San Antonio was the only one of these cities which had an unsheltered safe sleeping area which was located at Haven for Hope. He stated that an outreach team comprised of two staff from the Department of Human Services; three Homeless Outreach Positive Encounters (HOPE) Officers; and two Haven for Hope staff was created. He spoke of the services provided to address ID recovery and stated that staff partnered with Centro San Antonio in the Downtown Area. He noted that staff was proposing a Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Proactive Encampment Outreach Plan as a Pilot Program which would: 1) Identify the homeless; 2) Provide outreach to the homeless; 3) Clean and restore the encampment area; and 4) Follow up and maintain encampment areas. He stated that said Pilot Program would address the following areas of concern:

- District 3-Military/Goliad/Zarzamora area
- District 6-9055 Marbach (behind mall)
- District 7-Ingram, Wurzbach/Hillcrest area (by Ingram Park Mall)
- District 8-De Zavala/Silicon/Farinon area (across from Wal-Mart)

Mr. Gonzales presented maps of the downtown gateway locations and the homeless encampments.

James Flavin provided the following panhandling update (October 2015-May 2017) for the IMPACT/HOPE Programs:

Contacts	1,693
Referrals	756
Emergency detention	251
Detoxification	237
Refused service	449

Mr. Flavin stated that the top four referral agencies were Haven for Hope, The Center for Health Care Services, Nix Health, and Methodist Hospital. He provided the following results of enforcement for panhandling and trespassing:

<b>Downtown PID</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>% change</b>
Trespassing	72	97	34.7%
Panhandling	106	91	-14.2%
<b>Citywide</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>% change</b>
Trespassing	528	678	28.4%
Panhandling	820	583	-28.9%

Assistant Chief Flavin stated that enforcement for trespassing was being addressed by enforcement of no trespassing signs and the collection of Criminal Trespass Affidavits from businesses. He noted that 932 businesses had been contacted and 839 have signed Criminal Trespass Affidavits to date. He stated that this would enable SAPD to enforce trespassing.

Mr. Gonzales stated that staff would develop the Proactive Encampment Outreach Plan Pilot Program as part of the FY 2018 budget process. He noted that comprehensive homeless update briefings would be presented to the Criminal Justice, Public Safety, and Services Council Committee and the City Council during the budget process. He stated that staff would partner with public and private stakeholders to implement a panhandling public education campaign.

Chairperson Viagran asked of the outreach to be performed in the FY 2018 Proactive Encampment Outreach Plan Pilot Program. Mr. Gonzales stated that outreach was performed once the homeless were identified and that outreach included education and the offering of services to the homeless. Chairperson Viagran stated that this would provide an opportunity to engage the faith-based community.

Councilmember Gallagher asked if the FY 2018 Proactive Encampment Outreach Plan Pilot Program would be expanded to other council districts. Mr. Gonzales replied that staff was proposing to address two encampments per month. Councilmember Gallagher asked for an update on professional panhandling. Assistant Chief Flavin stated that SAPD was partnering with other agencies to identify and address professional panhandling. Councilmember Gallagher asked staff to explore employment of the homeless for clean up as was accomplished in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Councilmember Gonzales noted that some people at encampments were not homeless. She expressed support for Trail Stewards in parks to address the homeless in same.

Councilmember Treviño asked if serving hygiene and medical needs was included in the outreach. Mr. Gonzales replied that medical needs were addressed when noted. Councilmember Treviño expressed support for funding for hygiene and medical needs and asked if there were plans to expand Prospect Courtyard. Mr. Gonzales replied that there were no plans to expand Prospect Courtyard.

No action was required for Item 2.

**Consideration of items for future meetings**

Councilmember Gallagher requested a briefing on the effects of the no texting bill.

**Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.



*Rebecca Viagran, Chair*

*Respectfully Submitted*



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