

**PUBLIC SAFETY
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2017
10:00 A.M.
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING**

Members Present:	Councilmember William Cruz Shaw, Chair, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Greg Brockhouse, <i>District 6</i> Councilmember Ana Sandoval, <i>District 7</i> Councilmember John Courage, <i>District 9</i> Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i>
Members Absent:	None
Staff Present:	Erik Walsh, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; William McManus, <i>Police Chief, SAPD</i> ; Charles Hood, <i>Fire Chief, SAFD</i> ; Jon Kaplan, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Jim Kopp, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Chris Monestier, <i>Assistant Chief, SAFD</i> ; Carl Wedige, <i>Deputy Chief, SAFD</i> ; Denise F. Treviño, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Emilie Eaton, <i>San Antonio Express News</i> ; Brian Chasnoff, <i>San Antonio Express News</i> ; B. DeFelice, <i>Group Lead, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America</i> ; Lisa Epstein, <i>Chapter Lead, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America</i>

Call to order

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the September 26, 2017 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Chairman Shaw noted a correction to the minutes in which George Mery spoke in opposition of any amendments to Article V, Chapter 33 (Limousine Regulations) of the City Code which were recommended by the San Antonio Police Department. Councilmember Perry moved to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2017 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Brockhouse seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens signed up to speak.

Items for Consideration:

2. Briefing and Update on the San Antonio Police Department's Violent Crime Task Force. [Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police]

Chief Mc Manus provided the history on the formation of the Violent Crime Task Force (VCTF). He stated that the VCTF was a proactive multi-agency unit comprised of Local, State, and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies. He noted that it was an intelligence-driven unit which

focused on identifying and apprehending known criminals. He stated that its purpose was to reduce violent crime to enhance quality of life and reviewed the participating agencies. He stated that 113 personnel were dedicated to this effort. He noted the following results of the VCTF:

January 2017-October 20, 2017

- Arrests-4,175
- Narcotics charges-1,751
- Gang member arrests-454
- Weapons seized-686
- Drugs seized-258,047 grams
- Currency seized-\$1,064,965

Impact (compared to 2016)

- 101% increase in Street Crime Unit (SCU) arrests
- 140% increase in narcotics charges citywide
- 206% increase in weapon violation charges citywide

Chief McManus stated that through a Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 budget improvement, 14 additional Officers were added to the SCU to enhance the role within the VCTF. He noted that the Community Engagement Program would strengthen partnership and communication with neighborhoods to reduce violent crime. He stated that an additional eight San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE) Officer positions would be created to focus on expanding community-based policing. He noted that the following community engagement would be provided in December 2017 to:

- Proactively establish contact with individuals in high crime areas
- Provide assistance services to crime victims
- Strengthen and build partnerships with area agencies
- Analyze neighborhoods and tailor service delivery to address issues/concerns

Councilmember Perry asked of the correlation between individuals arrested versus those incarcerated. Chief McManus stated that most of those arrested spent very little time in jail. Councilmember Perry requested exact statistics regarding said correlation.

Councilmember Brockhouse stated that it was important to provide crime statistics to neighborhoods.

Councilmember Sandoval asked how crime was distributed throughout the city. Chief McManus replied that crime was everywhere noting that crime occurred in areas of dense population. He added that there was no pattern associated with violent crimes.

Chairman Shaw noted that persons involved in crimes were engaged in high risk behaviors. He asked of the role of SAFFE Officers. Chief McManus stated that SAFFE Officers would walk or ride in the four designated areas to create a visible presence.

No action was required for Item 2.

3. Briefing on the San Antonio Fire Department's Fire Prevention Division and Programs.
[Presented by Charles Hood, Fire Chief]

Chief Hood noted the personnel assigned to fire prevention and reported that the budget for same was \$5.8 million. He stated that revenue received included \$2.2 million for permit fees and inspections and \$1.5 million from Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) permitting. He noted the following inspections and case investigations in 2016 and 2017:

Fiscal Year	Inspections/Case investigations
2016	24,300
2017	29,693

Chief Hood stated that the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) Prevention Division consisted of three main subdivisions; the Office of the Fire Marshal, Fire Inspections, and Community Safety and Education. He noted that the Office of the Fire Marshal was responsible for the development and enforcement of the adopted Fire Code and partnered with construction and industry stakeholders on code adoption and code amendments every three years. He reviewed the timeline for approval of the 2018 code cycle and noted that code amendments would be brought before the City Council in May or June of 2018. He noted that the Office of the Fire Marshal also provided oversight of code modification requests and served as the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) for fire inspections led by a Division Chief. He stated that said office conducted all fire code inspections on new construction fire systems, certificates of occupancy, system modifications, and code enforcement in existing buildings. He noted that the group conducted case investigations based on citizen concerns and complaints and performed plan reviews for certain fire permits.

Chief Hood stated that the Community Safety and Education (CS&E) subdivision was responsible for public fire safety education, commercial building fire warden training, fire drills, and the youth fire prevention and intervention program. He noted that the team manages the Smoke Alarm Installation Program, "Home Check" safety inspections and Sparky the Fire Safety Dog Program. He stated that the group provided oversight for the Leaders in Fire Education Program (LIFE). He noted that the program, partnering with the Texas Burn Survivors Society, was a department wide effort educating 2nd and 5th grade students on fire safety throughout San Antonio Schools. He stated that CS&E managed the specialized inspection group consisting of the High-Rise Inspection Program, hospital/healthcare/boarding home inspections, and the HAZMAT Inspection Program. He noted that the HAZMAT Inspection Team conducted plan reviews of all hazardous material storage tank permit applications, and conducted the specialized inspections once installed. He stated that the team inspected all hazardous material storage and use facilities on a periodic basis as part of the HAZMAT permit ordinance. He stated that another subdivision of CS&E was the Special Events Office. He noted that this group evaluated life safety in large assemblies and assisted with providing fire watch duties for venues such as the Alamodome, A.T.&T. Center, and the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. He noted that they issued pyrotechnic permits for indoor and outdoor displays including Fiesta Texas and the New Years' Eve and 4th of July celebrations. He added that the team was also responsible for the Night Club Permit process along with associated inspections. He spoke of fire prevention at larger, complex sites such as the Calumet Refinery.

Councilmember Courage entered the meeting at this time.

Councilmember Brockhouse spoke of the need for fire personnel to speak directly to citizens regarding fire prevention. He asked that SAFD staff share their calendar for contact with the community.

Councilmember Sandoval asked of the number of HAZMAT facilities registered. Chief Hood replied that 2,700 HAZMAT facilities were registered with SAFD. Chris Monestier distinguished between those HAZMAT facilities which must be inspected every one, two, and three years.

Councilmember Courage commended the fire prevention efforts by SAFD.

Chairman Shaw spoke of the importance of education for fire and crime prevention.

No action was required for Item 3.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Shaw recessed the Public Safety Council Committee into Executive Session at 11:01 a.m. to deliberate issues related to the San Antonio Public Safety Radio System pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 55.076 (security devices and audits) and 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

Chairman Shaw reconvened the meeting at 11:20 a.m. and stated that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

Consideration of items for future meetings

There were no items considered for future meetings.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.



William Cruz Shaw, Chair

Respectfully Submitted



Denice F. Trevino, Office of the City Clerk