

**PUBLIC SAFETY
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2018
9:30 A.M.
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING**

Members Present: Councilmember William Cruz Shaw, Chair, *District 2*
Councilmember Greg Brockhouse, *District 6*
Councilmember Ana Sandoval, *District 7*
Councilmember John Courage, *District 9*
Councilmember Clayton Perry, *District 10*

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Erik Walsh, *Deputy City Manager*; Liz Provencio, *First Assistant City Attorney*; William McManus, *Police Chief, SAPD*; Charles Hood, *Fire Chief, SAFD*; Amin Tohmaz, *Assistant Director, Development Services Department*; Chris Monestier, *Assistant Chief, SAFD*; Carl Wedige, *Deputy Chief, SAFD*; Michelle Ramos, *Sergeant, SAPD*; Jim Kopp, *Assistant City Attorney*; Denice F. Treviño, *Office of the City Clerk*

Others Present: Jeff Sullivan, *Reporter, Rivard Report*

Call to order

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens registered to speak.

Items for Consideration:

2. Briefing on the San Antonio Police Department's (SAPD) Investigative Process Review.
[Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police]

Chief McManus stated that the investigative review process began in November 2017 and was expected to be completed in February 2018. He noted that said process included participation and input from citizens, external groups, and subject matter experts. He stated that a committee of Officers of various rank with investigative experience proposed the following Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) improvements to strengthen service to victims and increase accountability:

- Enhance supervisory review of case assignments
- Establish case audit schedule
- Establish communication guidelines with crime victims

He reviewed the members of the Community Group which were tasked with the following:

- Review recommendations and provide feedback
- Provide positive response to enhanced customer service policies

Chief McManus reviewed the members of the Community SOP Review Committee which were tasked with reviewing SOP recommendations and providing feedback with a focus on customer service to crime victims. He stated that Bob Stewart, a subject matter expert, was engaged to provide SOP recommendation review. He noted that Mr. Stewart reviewed the SOPs related to the investigative process and made recommendations as the result of an internal review. He reviewed the recommendations made regarding property crimes, the Major Crimes Section, the Special Investigations Section, and the Covert Section. He stated that the SOP revision process was near completion and many of the recommendations had already been implemented. He noted that implementation of all recommendations would be completed in 60 days and had been communicated to all Detectives. He noted that all Detectives would receive a copy of the revised SOPs and be required to sign an acknowledgement form.

Councilmember Perry requested a copy of the revised SOPs. Chief McManus stated that a revised copy of the SOPs would be provided to the Committee once finalized.

Chairman Shaw asked if there was a consent decree. Chief McManus replied that there was not.

Mr. Stewart provided the results of his review of the SOPs.

Councilmember Sandoval asked if the collective bargaining agreement affected the SOPs. Chief McManus replied that there was no effect.

Councilmember Perry suggested that the SOPs be revised to relieve the administrative burden of same.

Councilmember Sandoval requested a report on the accounting of cases.

No action was required for Item 2.

3. Briefing and Possible Action on the High-rise Sprinkler Ordinance. [Presented by Charles N. Hood, Fire Chief]

Chief Hood stated that in February 2016, the Committee approved a feasibility study to explore retroactive sprinklers in high-rises in the City of San Antonio (CoSA). He noted that a Stakeholder Group was established with the first meeting scheduled for April 15, 2016. He stated that 35 high-rise buildings were identified in CoSA and of the 35 affected buildings; eight were residential and 27 were commercial. He stated that all buildings were inspected, had existing safety features other than sprinklers, and were code compliant. He noted that inspections occurred on an annual basis to ensure code compliance. He stated that the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) high-rise inspectors monitored and tracked the progress of the sprinkler retrofit. He reviewed the members of the Stakeholder Group and outlined the following stakeholder key concerns:

- Cost of the Fire Sprinkler retrofit
- Disruption of business operations

- Disruption of daily life (residential)

He noted that a solution to address the key concerns was time:

- Owners needed time to raise funds to pay for the system retrofit
- Time allows for occupancy to be phased while areas of the building were under construction
- Time limited the disruption of other operations through careful planning and phasing of the construction process

Chief Hood reviewed the timelines for other cities and noted that faster compliance schedules appeared to be in cities with fewer affected buildings. He outlined State Legislation passed which affected high-rise buildings with 50% or more occupied by the elderly, disabled, and mobility impaired. He stated that the SAFD proposal was consistent with timelines established by State Law and that the stakeholders agreed with said proposal. He presented the phased-in timeline of the City Ordinance adopted in November 2015 which became effective in January 2016. He stated that enforcement would be accomplished by:

- SAFD Fire Marshal's Office/Fire Prevention
- High-Rise Inspector

Chief Hood presented the new financial incentives for tax payers and noted that staff recommended:

- Keep current Ordinance as approved
- SAFD to remain vigilant with life safety issues in high-rises by utilizing the High-Rise Inspector and continued inspections
- SAFD to continue to work with stakeholders to make businesses aware of the new tax incentives making earlier sprinkler retrofits more beneficial

Councilmember Brockhouse entered the meeting at this time.

Councilmember Perry asked if persons occupying the high-rises were included in the Stakeholder Group. Chief Hood replied that they were.

Councilmember Courage expressed concern that it would take 12 years to retrofit the high-rises.

Councilmember Sandoval expressed concern regarding the displacement of residents which might occur.

Councilmember Brockhouse spoke of tax breaks by the city to enhance public safety.

Chairman Shaw spoke of condominiums which were not required to be sprinklered.

No action was required for Item 3.

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 10:25 a.m.



William Cruz Shaw, Chair

Respectfully Submitted



Denice F. Trevino, Office of the City Clerk