

**PUBLIC SAFETY
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2019
2:00 PM
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING**

Members Present: Councilmember Ana Sandoval, Chair, *District 7*
Councilmember Jada Andrews-Sullivan, *District 2*
Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, *District 3*
Councilmember Melissa Cabello Havrda, *District 6*
Councilmember Clayton Perry, *District 10*

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Maria Villagómez, *Deputy City Manager*; Andy Segovia, *City Attorney*; Liz Provencio, *First Assistant City Attorney*; Camila Kanua, *Assistant City Attorney*; Jim Kopp, *Assistant City Attorney*; William McManus, *Chief of Police, SAPD*; Robert Blanton, *Deputy Chief, SAPD*; Jesse Salame, *Lieutenant, SAPD*; Ivalis Meza, *Mayor's Office*; Denice F. Treviño, *Office of the City Clerk*

Others Present: Joe Gonzales, *District Attorney, Bexar County*; Christian Hendrickson, *Bexar County*; Laurie Rodriguez, *District Attorney's Office, Bexar County*; Jamissa Jarmon, *District Attorney's Office, Bexar County*; Jacob Beltran, *Express News*; John Butchkosky, *Community Liaison, Texas Alliance for Human Needs*; Joan Delgadillo, *TOP*; Jessica Azua, *TOP*; Jose Moreno, *TOP*; Carolina Carizales, *SA Stands*; Alex Birnel, *Move Texas*; Chris Harris, *Just Liberty*

Call to order

Chairwoman Sandoval called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the September 20, 2019 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Chairwoman Sandoval stated that additional details would be added to the September 20, 2019 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes and would be submitted for approval at the next meeting. Councilmember Perry moved to table approval of the minutes of the September 20, 2019 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting to the next meeting. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Items for Consideration:

2. Briefing and Possible Action on the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) First Quarterly Update on the Expanded Cite and Release Program Initiated on July 1, 2019. [Maria Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

William McManus stated that the Cite and Release Program expanded the current Cite and Release Policy to include all eligible offenses in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure except for graffiti. He noted that this would allow Officers to return to the field quickly, remove the stigma of custodial arrest for Offenders, and reduce the jail population. He stated that the citation process for SAPD included:

- Officer confirms if offense(s) qualify for the Cite and Release Program
- Officer determines whether to make a custodial arrest or cite based on observed circumstances and past participation
- If cited, the ticket would instruct the Offender to report to the Bexar County Re-Entry Center within a set timeframe

Christian Hendrickson stated that the cited Offender would report to the Bexar County Re-Entry Center after 10 days and the Assistant District Attorney would review the offense(s) and assign them to one of two tracks: 1) Diversion Track; or 2) Case filed in court. He noted that for the Diversion Track, the cited Offender would enroll in the assigned program and Bexar County would monitor their progress and ensure program completion. He stated that Bexar County would then document program completion and maintain a record of the Cite and Release Program participants. He noted that for those with a case filed in court the normal procedure would occur.

Deputy Chief Blanton reported that from July 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019 there were 1,509 offenses. He noted that 65% resulted in arrest; 34% resulted in citations; and 1% resulted in another type of release which included emergency detentions and inebriates. He reviewed the number of arrests and citations for each of the eligible offenses and by service area, age, gender, and race/ethnicity. He presented the reasons for arrests, including those for which arrests were mandatory. He stated that SAPD has realized Officer time on-call savings equivalent to 2.3 Officer Positions during the first three months of the Cite and Release Program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairwoman Sandoval called upon the citizens registered for public comment.

Alex Birnel spoke in support of the Cite and Release Program and called for discussion on how to reduce further arrests.

Chris Harris stated that more data was needed to inform policy changes.

Carolina Carizales stated that an arrest was a life-changing occurrence.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked if the percentage of arrests by race/ethnicity was commensurate with the demographics of the City. Deputy Chief Blanton replied that a small difference from the demographics was noted for African-Americans and Whites and the percentage for Hispanics was very close.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the types of Diversion Programs available. Mr. Hendrickson stated that the types of Diversion Programs were offense-specific. Councilmember Viagran requested data on multiple arrests and citations. Maria Villagómez stated that staff would track data for those with multiple citations when more data was available.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked what the result would be if an individual cited did not report to Bexar County within 30 days. Mr. Hendrickson replied that staff would reach out to the individual and ultimately a Summons to Court would be issued followed by a warrant if the individual had not responded.

Councilmember Perry asked if all individuals cited go into diversion programs or had a case filed in court. Mr. Hendrickson replied that those cited for possession of marijuana under one ounce were not entered into a diversion program or had a case filed in court. Councilmember Perry expressed concern that theft up to \$750 was included on the list of eligible offenses for the Cite and Release Program.

Councilmember Viagran asked if those committing criminal trespassing would be arrested or cited. Chief McManus replied that those committing criminal trespassing would be arrested.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda requested a FAQ sheet from the District Attorney's Office.

Councilmember Perry requested that a future discussion be held regarding the homeless.

Chairwoman Sandoval stated that the Cite and Release Program allowed individuals to stay in their jobs, with their families, and were free of the stigma of arrest.

Ms. Villagómez stated that the first and second quarter reports would be presented to the Committee in February 2020.

3. Briefing and Possible Action on the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) Proposed Timeline to Develop a Five-Year Strategic Plan for SAPD in Collaboration with Community Organizations and Stakeholders. [Maria Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Chief McManus stated that the purpose of the Five-Year Strategic Plan was to serve as a formal guide which reflected the shared vision and priorities of the SAPD and the community it served. He noted that it would:

- Strengthen the partnership between SAPD and the community
- Enhance transparency and cooperation
- Identify specific goals and priorities to promote public safety and quality of life

He stated that SAPD envisioned a document which positions the department to remain at the national forefront by focusing on the following:

- Crime reduction and quality of life
- Community engagement
- Recruitment and staffing
- Technology and infrastructure

Chief McManus noted that Advisory Group discussions, a Public Safety Committee presentation, and a community survey would be facilitated in the Fall of 2019. He stated that citywide community meetings, review of the survey, an update to the Public Safety Committee, and a presentation to City Council at B Session would be held in the Spring of 2020.

Councilmember Perry asked of the members of the Advisory Group and when it was formed. Lieutenant Salame stated that the Advisory Group was formed in January 2019 and was comprised of 12 members representing the Greater Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, UTSA, Region 20, the Alamo Colleges, the LGBT Community, the Family Violence Prevention Services, and the Children's Shelter. Councilmember Perry requested that the Advisory Group be comprised of members of the community from each Council District. Ms. Villagómez stated that modifications would be made utilizing feedback from the Committee.

Councilmember Viagran requested that members of the Alamo Area Homeless Task Force (AAHTF), the Domestic Violence Task Force (DVTF), the Immigrant Community, and the San Antonio Police Officers Association (SAPOA) be included in the Advisory Group.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan suggested that offenders and school districts be included in discussions.

Chairwoman Sandoval requested a list of the Advisory Group Members and Community Members included in the Strategic Planning Process. She requested topics of discussion at previous Committee Meetings which could be included in the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Villagómez stated that she would draft a memorandum with a timeline of upcoming meetings for distribution to the Committee.

Consideration of Items for Future Meetings

No items were considered for future meetings.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:34 pm.



Ana Sandoval, Chair

Respectfully Submitted



Denice F. Trevino, Office of the City Clerk

