

**PUBLIC SAFETY  
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 18, 2020  
2:00 PM  
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Councilmember Melissa Cabello Havrda, <i>Chair, District 6</i> Councilmember Jada Andrews-Sullivan, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Ana Sandoval, <i>District 7</i> Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i>
<b>Members Absent:</b>	None
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Maria Villagómez, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Andy Segovia, <i>City Attorney</i> ; Joe Niño, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Jim Kopp, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Eric Burns, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Savita Rai, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; William McManus, <i>Chief of Police, SAPD</i> ; Shannon Sims, <i>Assistant Director, Animal Care Services</i> ; Edward Gonzales, <i>Assistant Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services Department</i> ; Linda Tomasini, <i>SAPD</i> ; Eloy Medina, <i>SAPD</i> ; Michael Castaño, <i>SAPD</i> ; W. Gary Grona, <i>SAPD</i> ; Michelle Ramos, <i>Sergeant, SAPD</i> ; Marc A. Valero, <i>SAPD</i> ; M. Thornton, <i>SAPD</i> ; Denice F. Treviño, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
<b>Others Present:</b>	Mandeep Singh, <i>PHT 410</i> ; Amandeep Anaud, <i>PHT 410</i> ; Ruben Peña, <i>Woodglen Neighborhood Association</i> ; Linda Marple, <i>Woodglen Neighborhood Association</i> ; John Butchkosky, <i>Texas Alliance for Human Needs</i> ;

**Call to order**

Chairwoman Cabello Havrda called the meeting to order.

**1. Approval of the Minutes from the Public Safety Committee Meeting on January 21, 2020**

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan moved to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2020 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Mandeep Singh reported that the guidance provided by the Dangerous Assessment Response Team (DART) was instrumental to the success of his business.

Amandeep Anaud stated that he was grateful that DART addressed safety concerns related to his business.

## **Items for Consideration:**

### **2. Briefing and Possible Action on the City's Dangerous Assessment Response Team Process. [Andy Segovia, City Attorney]**

Andy Segovia stated that the DART Program was created in 2007 by the City Attorney's Office to address nuisance properties in the City. He noted that in addition to the City Attorney's Office, DART was comprised of SAPD San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE), Development Services Department (DSD), Animal Care Services (ACS), Human Services Department, Fire Marshall's Office, Neighborhood & Housing Services Department (NHSD), Metro Health, and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC).

Joe Niño stated that the mission of the DART Program was to reclaim, restore, and revitalize neighborhoods which were plagued by properties which posed a safety threat. He described the roles of the DART members. He noted that the types of properties addressed included:

#### **Residential**

- Drugs
- Gang activity
- Prostitution
- Vacant structures

#### **Commercial**

- Motels/Hotels
- Convenience stores
- Apartment complexes
- Bars
- Massage parlors

#### **Land**

- Vacant lots

Mr. Niño stated that each department representing DART would research the property for a documented two-year history for previous code violations, current code violations, SAPD calls for service, offense reports, and criminal activity. He noted that on the inspection day an administrative warrant would be obtained from the Magistrate to enter onto the property. He stated that DART would identify concerns or special needs which may arise such as:

- Gangs, weapons, hoarding, elderly, children
- Relocation issues/Notice to Vacate/social services-need for NHSD
- Dangerous animals
- Health concerns

He noted that a safety briefing would be held and DART would meet formally to discuss the findings and possible course of action, to include potential remedies. He stated that the available remedies on the inspection day included:

- Code enforcement
- Dangerous premises enforcement
- Health Code enforcement
- Criminal enforcement
- Animal enforcement
- TABC citations
- Relocation of eligible persons

Mr. Niño noted that after the inspection; a meeting would be held with the property owner and relevant team members to discuss violations, advise the owner of their legal liability, and advise the owner of the City's requirement for compliance. He stated that if the meeting resulted in voluntary compliance the City and the property owner would enter into a Nuisance Abatement Compliance Agreement, an Action Plan would be developed, and the property would be monitored for compliance. He noted that if the property owner refused to comply, the case could be referred to the Building Standards Board (BSB) for repair, vacate, or demolition as warranted, a lawsuit could be filed encompassing all violations if the property presents a substantial threat to health, life, safety, and welfare to abate the nuisance conditions and/or a lawsuit could be filed encompassing habitual criminal cases to close the property for one year. He presented the number of DART inspections for 2018 and 2019 by Council District and the number of DART inspections for Fiscal Years 2008-2017. He reviewed the results of the DART Audit of the City Attorney's Office which were positive. He noted that the City Auditor's Office recommended that the checklist utilized be improved to enhance record keeping and ensure that documents received from DART Members were filed in the appropriate place.

Savita Rai and Eric Burns provided several examples of DART properties and the resulting actions taken.

Chairwoman Cabello Havrda asked of the procedure for tracking the progress of properties monitored by DART. Mr. Burns reported that the Nuisance Abatement Compliance Agreement included an Action Plan and Timeline which would be monitored and must be adhered to. Chairwoman Cabello Havrda requested data on crime reduction in neighborhoods affected.

Councilmember Viagran asked how properties to be addressed were prioritized. Mr. Niño reported that bi-weekly meetings of DART were held and properties were categorized according to the potential danger involved. Mr. Segovia emphasized that the list of properties to be addressed was not static.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan requested information on the resolution of properties addressed by DART in her Council District. Mr. Niño stated that he would provide the information. Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked if the Hays Food Mart would be required to install video surveillance cameras when it re-opened. Ms. Rai replied that there were existing video surveillance cameras but DART would recommend the installation of additional cameras.

No action was required for Item 2.

### **3. Briefing and Possible Action on National Night Out. [Maria Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]**

Item 3 was postponed to a future meeting.

### **Consideration of Items for Future Meetings**

Councilmember Viagran requested an update on the facilities assessment and the magistration process.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:26 pm.



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***Melissa Cabello Havrda, Chair***

***Respectfully Submitted***



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