

**COMMUNITY HEALTH AND EQUITY  
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 16, 2020 2:00PM  
VIDEOCONFERENCE**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Councilmember Ana Sandoval, Chair, <i>District 7</i> Councilmember Robert Treviño, <i>District 1</i> Councilmember Jada Andrews-Sullivan, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i>
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Dr. Colleen Bridger, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; David McCary, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Durime Elmazi, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Alma Lozano, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Sandra Guerra, MD, MPH, <i>Deputy Public Health Director, Metro Health</i> ; Douglas Melnick, <i>Director, Office of Sustainability</i> ; Jennifer Herriott, <i>Assistant Director, Metro Health</i> ; Julia Murphy, <i>AICP Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer</i> ; Nefi Garza, <i>Assistant Director, Public Works</i> ; Pete Stranges, <i>Health Program Manager, Metro Health</i> ; Jenny Hixon, <i>Violence Prevention Manager, Metro Health</i> ; John Cantu, <i>Environmental Management Manager, Public Works Department</i> ; Derek Taylor, <i>Senior Management Coordinator, StandUp SA!, Metro Health</i> ; Jasmine Williams, <i>Outreach Work Supervisor, StandUp SA!, Metro Health</i> ; Carlisha Thompson, <i>Outreach Worker, StandUp SA!, Metro Health</i> ; Nancy Cano, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
<b>Others Present:</b>	Anthony Orlando, <i>Regional Vice President, Blink EV Charging</i> ; Valerie von Schramm, <i>Strategic Research &amp; Innovation Manager, CPS Manager</i>

**Call to order**

Chairwoman Sandoval called the meeting to order.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

None.

**LIVE TESTIMONY**

None.

**1. Approval of the meeting minutes for the October 22, 2020 Community Health and Equity Committee Meeting.**

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan moved to approve the minutes for the October 22, 2020 Community Health & Equity Council Committee meeting. Councilmember Treviño seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 4 was heard at this time.

**4. A briefing and presentation on the Municipal Setting Designation (MSD) application for the KLN Steel property at 4200 N. Pan Am Expressway, located in City Council District 2.**  
[Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

John Cantu reported that in 2003, the Texas Legislature authorized the creation of Municipal Setting Designations (MSDs), which designated areas in which the use of shallow contaminated groundwater was prohibited from use as potable water for human consumption and prohibited the installation of potable water wells within an MSD boundary. He stated that redevelopment tools from the MSD Program encouraged clean-up of contaminated sites and promoted the redevelopment of under-utilized properties. He explained the MSD Program process and noted that MSDs were restricted over the Edwards Aquifer (EA) Recharge Zone and areas within a half mile of the SAWS pump station.

Mr. Cantu reported that the KLN property was the first MSD application received by the City and was a 38-acre site situated near the interchange of IH-35 and Loop 410. He stated that KLN purchased the property in 2008 and enrolled the site in the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Voluntary Cleanup Program from 2009 – 2015 when environmental issues were encountered. He mentioned that the areas of concern were vapor degreasers, above-ground storage tanks, and waste storage units.

Mr. Cantu reported that in 2019, an injection permit was obtained for enhanced biological groundwater treatment and a groundwater recovery system was installed to remove approximately 7,500 gallons of impacted water, remediate 5,400 cubic yards of affected soil, and inject approximately 30,000 gallons of biological treatment solutions through the plume to reduce the concentration of chemicals of concern in regulatory coordination with the TCEQ. He stated that in 2019, the City conducted an administrative and technical review of the applicant's MSD reports, determined the plume to be stable and decreased in concentrations, received SAWS and EA concurrence, and recommended that the Public Works Director move into the public involvement phase. He indicated that public meeting notices were posted on October 1, 2020, a virtual public meeting was held on October 20, 2020, public comments were requested within a 10-day period thereafter, and no comments from the public were received. He added that the public was invited to participate in the virtual Committee meeting.

Mr. Cantu presented the proposed MSD site boundary and reviewed the exposure risk, affirming that drinking water would not come from its groundwater zone, its groundwater was not accessible, its groundwater was a current source of potable or drinking water, there were no downgradient users of the groundwater, and the EQ was not affected. He stated that the site was in an area rezoned for industrial redevelopment and East Group would redevelop 29 acres for commercial warehousing and the remaining 9 acres would be developed post-closing. He reported that resolutions of support were received from Bexar County Water Control and Improvement District #10, the City of Alamo Heights, the City of Kirby, and SAWS. He stated that next steps included a public hearing and City Council consideration of the MSD Ordinance in January 2021.

Councilmember Gonzales asked why nine acres of the site remained undeveloped. Mr. Cantu replied that the application was submitted for the entire 38-acre site and the MSD Ordinance was needed first in order to continue redevelopment of the remaining nine acres.

Chairwoman Sandoval asked which of the letters of support received was the most critical and asked if a letter of support from the City was necessary. She requested that the MSD Ordinance documentation be made available to the public upon City Council approval. She expressed concern that the plume was still moving and could invade wells installed on neighboring properties and requested assurances that neighboring property owners would be notified of the plume. She asked when the cleanup would be 100% completed. Mr. Cantu replied that the approval of the MSD by City Council would be the most critical and was needed first and foremost; thereafter, resolution of support from the retail public utilities was needed. He stated that he would provide information from SAWS regarding well building regulations within City limits to address any concerns. He reported that the State allowed the MSD to place deed restrictions for groundwater ingestion, the applicant had proved to the City that the plume was below protective concentration level per state regulatory standards, and the plume had already become stable and was decreasing.

**2. A briefing providing updates on Metro Health's Implementation of a voluntary paid sick leave program.** [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Sandra Guerra, MD, MPH, Interim Deputy Public Health Director, Health]

Pete Stranges reported that the City's Sick and Safe Leave Ordinance was presented at the International Forum on Transforming Cities for Decent Work 2019 in Seoul, South Korea, and that in February 2020, Metro Health developed the concept for a voluntary paid sick leave initiative called Working Well SA, (WWSA) with the goal to carry on the mission of the City's Sick and Safe Leave Ordinance. He explained that WWSA aimed to increase the number of local companies that voluntarily offered paid sick leave and provided a toolkit and free consulting services for area businesses to implement the program. He added that businesses interested in certification could upload HR documents for Metro Health review and approval, and Metro Health would honor local companies committed to creating healthier workplaces and becoming WWSA members.

Mr. Stranges reported that the cost of replacing an employee was 20% of that separated worker's salary and presenteeism, or reporting to work sick, cost US businesses \$160 billion in decreased productivity each year. He stated that researchers found that states where workers gained new access to guaranteed paid sick leave through the CARES Act saw 400 fewer confirmed COVID-19 cases per day. He added that Metro Health recommended a January 15, 2021 launch date for WWSA and proposed a marketing budget of \$50,000 with \$20,300 allocated for digital ads, emails, and marketing materials in Q2 of FY2021, and \$29,700 for newspaper and business journal advertisements and direct mailings to business owners in Q3 of FY 2021. He stated that in July 2021, Metro Health would conduct a six-month evaluation of WWSA performance measures for January 2021 through June 2021.

Councilmember Treviño asked if any paid sick leave advocates assisted with the development of WWSA and requested an update for the Committee of any sick leave advocate meetings. He asked if there was sick leave protection for employees that had to quarantine. He asked if employees were engaged in WWSA. Mr. Stranges replied that the City was in its conceptual phase of WWSA and planned to reach out to its valued advocates, and updates would be provided. He replied that individuals under quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure were eligible to receive paid sick leave under the current CARES Act which was set to expire on December 31, 2020. He concurred that employee representation would provide equity in carrying out the spirit of the program.

Councilmember Gonzales expressed concern that small businesses were struggling to stay afloat and could not afford to hire new employees nor provide paid sick leave. Dr. Bridger clarified that paid sick leave for employees under the CARES Act could be deducted from an employer's taxes.

Chairwoman Sandoval noted that a \$50,000 budget for a program that could be transformational for community health was very small. She asked how the program would be launched given that so many local employers did not offer paid sick leave. Mr. Steves replied that there were 350,000 employees in San Antonio that did not have paid sick leave and a focused, targeted marketing campaign was in progress. He added that WWSA would utilize a database of local employers provided by the Economic Development Department.

**3. A briefing on Metro Health's Gun Violence Prevention Program - Stand Up SA [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Sandra Guerra, MD, MPH, Interim Deputy Director, Health Department]**

Derek Taylor reported that violence remained concentrated in certain socially economically deprived neighborhoods that tended to have lower rates of employment and educational attainment along with other social and health disparities. He stated that violent deaths from suicide and homicide were one of the leading causes of premature deaths for young people ages ten through 24. He added that homicide and suicide were only behind accidental injury in causes of death for ages 15-24 in Bexar County. He noted that young men between the ages of 15-24 demonstrated a lack of skills to avoid immediate conflict and may be unaware of the consequences to themselves, their families and their neighbors. He added that violence was a learned behavior and community members in violent neighborhoods often acquiesced to violence, accepted it as normal behavior, and felt powerless to stop it.

Mr. Taylor reported that death due to homicide was 13.5 times higher for African Americans than for Whites; Black women were 2.2 times more likely to be murdered by a current or former intimate partner than White women; and those who experienced violence, as children or adults were at increased risk of future violence as victim or perpetrator. He stated that gun violence was complex and frequent, was associated with high morbidity rates, and had a major impact on the health and safety of San Antonio residents.

Mr. Taylor reported that Cure Violence was an evidence-based violence prevention program which worked with communities with high levels of gun violence with a strategy leveraging the experienced young men of color to act as credible messengers of ant-violence messages in order to prevent and reduce youth violence. He stated that the study used principles of interrupting disease transmission to stop violence from spreading through retaliation. He cited Cure Violence Program locations in over 100 communities in over 10 countries that reported a substantial decline in violence ranging from 15% to 40% within two years following the introduction of the program. He added that the City locally implemented the program as StandUpSA! that relied on three key elements to stop the transmission of violence: Interrupting transmission; identifying and changing the thinking of the highest potential transmitters; and changing community norms.

Mr. Taylor reported that participants of StandUpSA! must meet at least four of seven criteria: Gang-involved, major player in a drug or street organization, violent criminal history, recent incarceration,

reputation of carrying a gun, recent victim of a shooting, and be 16-25 years of age. He stated that 61% of participants were male, 39% were female, 74% were Black, 13% were Hispanic, 10% were Other, and 3% were American Indian.

Carlisha Thompson reported that she was an outreach worker with StandUpSA! and had worked for over four years with credible messengers that were formerly incarcerated or involved with gangs that were willing to help others in a similar situation. Jasmine Williams reported that she was an outreach worker supervisor that had worked for StandUpSA! since its inception and was deployed to the Eastside with nine outreach workers to identify and empower credible messengers. She noted that a Westside team was being developed that would consist of one outreach supervisor and nine outreach workers.

Mr. Taylor reported noted that University Hospital System (UHS) and Brook Army Medical Center (BAMC) were local Level 1 Trauma Centers that received the bulk of shooting victims in Bexar County. He stated that one hospital supervisor and two outreach workers would serve as hospital-based violence interrupters from both hospitals and collaborate with StandUpSA! to identify patients at risk of repeat violent injury and link them with hospital and community-based resources.

Chairwoman Sandoval requested more information regarding the StandUpSA! expansion on the Westside and collaboration with the Healthy Neighborhoods Program. She asked of the hospital interrupter process. Mr. Taylor replied that he was collaborating with Command Staff at SAPD to determine which Westside shooting hotspots would be targeted. Mr. Taylor reported that pre-COVID-19, StandUpSA invited the Healthy Neighborhood Program to provide food demonstrations at community events to bring awareness to residents of resources available to them. Mr. Taylor stated that outreach workers collaborated with hospital case managers to locate free referral services for help recovering from traumatic experiences. Jenny Hixon reported that Metro Health identified the internal referral process as a high priority and recognized the need for more seamless referral services, and highlighted that Metro Health was co-located with the Healthy Neighborhood Program, and would share office space with the newly expanded Violence Prevention Team.

Councilmember Viagran asked the outreach workers what was the most important change residents sought. Ms. Williams emphasized that most of the residents just wanted to survive and were faced with limited options once they had acquired any felonies and/or incarcerations on their criminal records.

Councilmember Gonzales noted that pilot programs that addressed systemic issues often did not receive extended funding due to lack of documented performance metrics and asked if Cure Violence metrics were available. Mr. Taylor replied that Cure Violence tracked data and provided points of time for shooting occurrences to enable effective tracking.

Councilmember Treviño encouraged staff to utilize all tools and resources available at the Frank Garrett Multi-Service Center to facilitate the Westside StandUpSA! outreach team.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked of the steps StandUpSA! was taking during COVID-19 to address gun violence de-escalation efforts on the Eastside. She referenced the heavy amount of emails the Council District 2 office received from residents concerned about the lack of resolution and communication from Detectives in gun violence cases and asked if outreach workers communicated with the families. She requested data regarding gun violence statistics from January 2020 to present for

the Eastside specifically. Mr. Taylor stated that the outreach teams were actively monitoring situations on social media and were still engaged with field work while maintaining social distancing. He added that outreach teams interacted with 80% or 90% of parties involved in gun shootings that were covered by news media outlets. He noted that the team did not interfere with active police cases and outreach workers did provide support to families by filing Victims of Crime paperwork and offered support with memorial balloon releases or hosting fundraiser barbecue plate drives. Ms. Hixon clarified that the program was not intended to be part of a police response, but was a totally different and separate support model with no role in active detective investigations.

**5. A briefing on a potential agreement between the City of San Antonio and Blink Charging Company for Publicly-Accessible Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure on City Property (RFP 20-076).** [David McCary, Assistant City Manager; Douglas Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer]

Julia Murphy reported that promoting clean and efficient technologies, including electric vehicles (EV), was a mitigation strategy for reducing transportation consumption in the City of San Antonio's SA Tomorrow Sustainability Plan, the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP), the Ozone Attainment Master Plan and the American Cities Climate Challenge (ACCC). She stated that the Office of Sustainability collaborated with internal and external partners to conduct studies and analyses to understand the electric vehicle needs for the community and the municipality. She noted that CPS Energy estimated that up to 45,000 electric vehicles would be in San Antonio over the next 10 years and that there were currently 4,400 registered EVs in June 2020.

Ms. Murphy reported that reducing transportation consumption was a major greenhouse gas reduction strategy in the SA Climate Ready Program and the Electric Vehicles SA Program (EVSA) was launched to provide education, outreach, and policy and infrastructure considerations for the proposal of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging on City property, the establishment of EV and solar-ready codes for new construction, municipal fleet initiatives, and CPS pilot rate programs.

Ms. Murphy reported that large sections of the City did not have any EV charging stations and limited charging accessibility could delay the adoption of electric vehicles as 44% of residents did not have access to at-home charging. She presented a mapping of high-priority level 2 charging locations. She stated that Requests for Proposals (RFP) were released in July 2019 seeking a third-party electric supply equipment provider to install, operate, maintain, and own publicly accessible vehicle charging infrastructure on City property. She indicated that the Evaluation Committee selected Blink Charging (BC) and noted that the potential agreement with BC was cost-neutral to the City as BC would be responsible for all expenses related to site prep, installation, software, marketing, and customer interface. She added that BC would install Level 2 chargers and DC fast chargers on City property with a contract term of one year and four, one-year renewal options. She noted that BC would charge a fee to access the chargers, offered a 50% revenue sharing with the City, and agreed to pursue all available grant rebates and incentives. She mentioned that \$10.4 million in grants were available statewide from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for Level 2 charging stations with reimbursements up to \$2,500 per charging unit eligible project costs.

Chairwoman Sandoval noted that the City would be receiving revenue from the agreement with BC and asked at what point would that occur. Mr. Orlando stated that more revenue opportunities would be

forthcoming, as BC had 189,000 user members in its visible network and on partner networks. He noted that as more rideshare companies invested in EVs, more cities would adopt EV programs and infrastructure. He added that seven inch LCD screens were installed at each charging station with the ability to promote local business advertising and community involvement to further drive revenue.

Councilmember Gonzales exited the meeting at this time.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan moved to approve Item 5. Councilmember Treviño seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

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*Ana Sandoval, Chair*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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*Nancy Cano, Office of the City Clerk*