



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Date: 10/28/2015

In Control: Governance Committee

DEPARTMENT: Police

DEPARTMENT HEAD: William P. McManus, Chief of Police

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City Wide

SUBJECT:

Immigration practices

SUMMARY:

The San Antonio Police Department's current policies and procedures effectively protect the safety and security of all persons contacting police for assistance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The San Antonio Police Department wants and needs all residents and visitors to San Antonio to feel safe and secure in calling police for necessary assistance or to report a crime. Unless officers have reasonable suspicion to believe a person has committed a crime or are witness to a crime, officers do not have the authority to detain or arrest any person.

The San Antonio Police Department has released an Immigration Practices document which outlines and explains the activities and processes that a San Antonio Police Department officer will take in regards to addressing immigration issues. This was developed in order to create an open dialogue with the community and insure a focus and prioritization on public safety in San Antonio. These practices outline how the San Antonio Police Department ensures that all residents, regardless of immigration status, should not fear contacting the police if they have been a victim or a witness to a crime. In addition to the Immigration Practices document, officers of the San Antonio Police Department follow the Department's General Manual regarding service to all the public and prohibitions on racial/bias profiling. Finally, officers continue to receive training, at in-service on an annual basis, that includes how to address these issues and protect the rights of all people they interact with.

The San Antonio Police Department maintains these practices for several reasons, one being that victims and witnesses of crimes are often fearful of coming forward because they believe that they will be deported if they are contacted by police. To combat this fear, the San Antonio Police Department will consider state issued

driver's license or identification card and other government identifications including passports, military ID, as well as "Matricula Consular" as valid forms of identification. The Department's Major Crimes division, in conjunction with Catholic Charities, will also help victims and witnesses obtain U-Visas, so long as they are willing to cooperate with law enforcement throughout the legal process.

CONCLUSION:

The current policies and procedures of the San Antonio Police Department embrace the diversity of the population, and are served in a manner that encourages cooperation and engenders trust without regard to race, national origin, citizenship, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability. Furthermore, the San Antonio Police Department will continuously evaluate our policies and procedures with a focus on the best interests of the community while providing our citizens with the exemplary service they deserve.