



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:17-5884

Agenda Item Number: 2.

Agenda Date: 10/24/2017

In Control: Public Safety Committee

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: William P. McManus, Chief of Police

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City Wide

SUBJECT:

Violent Crimes Task Force Update

SUMMARY:

On January 9, 2017, the San Antonio Police Department initiated the Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF) which is a proactive, multi-agency unit comprised of SAPD Covert Units, the Street Crimes Unit, SWAT and Fusion Center personnel as well as various local, State and Federal law enforcement agencies designed to effectively reduce crime throughout San Antonio. The VCTF is an intelligence-driven initiative that will strategically focus on identifying and apprehending known criminals who are responsible for a significant share of the illegal activity that ultimately culminates in violent crimes that impact quality of life.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Since its inception, the VCTF has made considerable progress in disrupting criminal activity throughout the City as evidenced by the results achieved through October 13, 2017:

Persons Arrested	4,020
Felony Warrants	1,714
Felony Charges	2,102
Narcotics Charges	1,682
Firearms Recovered	664
Gang Members Arrested	446

Field Contacts	4,588
Drugs Seized (grams)	244,449 g
Currency Seized	\$1,059,954.45
Stolen Vehicles Recovered	45

Further evidence of the impact of the VCTF in reducing violent crime is the significant decrease in murders associated with gang and drug violence:

Factor	2016 YTD	2017 YTD	% Change
Gang	19	7	-63.2%
Gang & Narcotics	10	3	-70.0%
Narcotics	19	9	-52.6%

The Street Crimes Unit accounts for a majority of the arrests that have been made by the VCTF which has resulted in a 101% increase year-to-date in arrests made by the Street Crimes Unit in comparison to 2016.

In an effort to enhance the impact of the Street Crimes Unit, 14 additional officers were assigned to the Unit as a FY 2017 mid-year budget improvement utilizing the \$1,042,123 allocated through the FY 17 Adopted Budget as a required match for the COPS Grant, which the SAPD applied for last year but was ultimately not awarded. The additional positions have strengthened the role of the SAPD within the VCTF and allow the Taskforce to proactively expand its efforts throughout the City.

The VCTF will be a permanent unit dedicated to proactively identifying and targeting crime trends as they emerge. To this end, the SAPD hosts bi-weekly VCTF meetings with representatives from all participating agencies to facilitate communication and coordination. In addition, this unit will further enhance our partnerships with local, State and Federal law enforcement agencies providing vital resources through their ongoing participation in other public safety initiatives.

RECOMMENDATION:

The SAPD will continue to work in coordination with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to proactively identify and address crime throughout the City.