

**Public Safety Council Committee
Special Meeting
Minutes**

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

12:30 p.m.

Municipal Plaza Room B

Members Present: Councilmember John G. Clamp, *Chair, District 10*
Councilmember Ivy R. Taylor, *District 2*
Councilmember Ray Lopez, *District 6*

Members Absent: Councilmember David Medina, Jr., *District 5*

Staff Present: Erik Walsh, *Assistant City Manager*; David Garza, *Housing & Neighborhood Services Director*; William McManus, *Police Chief*; Carlos Contreras, *Intergovernmental Relations Director*; Ramon Mendez, *Housing & Neighborhood Services Assistant Director*; Mike Burns, *Deputy Police Chief*; Jeff Humphrey, *Deputy Police Chief*; Rumaldo Abonce, *City Marshal*; Joe Nino, *Deputy City Attorney*; Savita Rai, *Assistant City Attorney*; Chris Hebner, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Others Present: Rick Maron, *CPS Energy*; Jerri Ann Jones, *VIA*; Jimmy Richards, *DTA/Centro SA*; John Leal, *CPS Energy*; Kathleen Takamine, *District Attorney's Office*; Ken Paneli, *AT&T*; Rosalinda Munoz, *AT&T*; Laura Lopez, *TxDOT*; Michael Acosta, *TxDOT*

Call to Order

Chairman Clamp called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens to be Heard

Citizens addressed the Committee during corresponding items.

2. Graffiti Work Session

Presented by David D. Garza, Housing & Neighborhood Services Director

Ramon Mendez reported that the Housing and Neighborhood Services Department has been engaged in graffiti assistance programs since 2006 with a staff of fifteen (15) employees, of which twelve (12) are engaged in graffiti abatement on a daily basis. He provided an overview of the following programs: Community Volunteer Program; Graffiti Wipeout Program; Adopt-A-Spot; and Placing Light Upon Graffiti (PLUG). He stated that the Art in Action Program was a new project that will be added to the Graffiti Abatement Strategic Plan. He noted that it was a community arts project created in collaboration with Our Lady of the Lake University targeting at-risk youth ages 14-21. He added that the project would also educate attendees ages 5-14 in the Parks and Recreation Daycamp Playzones.

Rick Maron reported that the CPS Energy Infrastructure subject to graffiti vandalism included but was not limited to: CPS Energy buildings and substations; vehicles; transformers utility poles; metering enclosures; towers; and gas pipes. He stated that the target completion time for graffiti abatement was ten business days and that the average response time was two to five business days. Chairman Clamp asked if graffiti abatement crews were CPS Energy employees or contracted. Mr. Maron responded that the abatement crews were both CPS Energy employees and contract. In response to Councilmember Lopez, Mr. Maron stated that over \$130,000 was spent on graffiti abatement during the past year. Mr. Mendez noted that the City had a budget of \$900,000 before staffing and that \$55,000 was spent on the pilot program in District 6. Councilmember Lopez stated that a significant amount of funding was being spent on graffiti abatement and spoke in consideration of creating a collaborative to address graffiti abatement and its cost effectiveness.

Chief Mike Burns reported that the San Antonio Police Department has twelve (12) graffiti directed cameras and Park Police has three (3). He stated that 28 arrests were made utilizing graffiti cameras in 2009 and 63 arrests from January 1, 2010 to March 12, 2010. He noted that the number of graffiti incidents decrease when schools are in session and during inclement weather conditions. In response to Chairman Clamp, Chief Burns stated that the graffiti cameras were worth the time and effort. He indicated that the locations of the cameras changed based on information provided. Chairman Clamp asked of the outcome of the 63 graffiti arrests. Judge John Bull stated that information regarding those cases could be obtained through the Bexar County Juvenile Court. David Garza stated that the new SAPD Headquarters will contain a surveillance monitoring room.

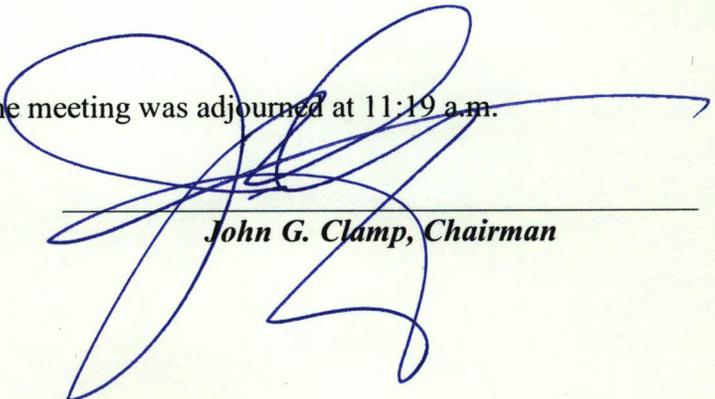
Judge Bull reported that there were 60 juvenile males assigned to the Juvenile Work Program and that juvenile work crews have been established through the Marshal's Office. He stated that the work crews were available to perform community service hours in any of the City Council Districts. Judge Bull requested Council support to transport the juvenile work crews to various clean-up locations. He also indicated that the Teen Court Program for juvenile males had been revised to utilize juvenile offenders as judge and jury and spoke of the success of the program. Chairman Clamp requested that staff explore options to provide transportation to the juvenile work crews.

Carlos Contreras reported that HB 2086 had been amended during the last legislative session with a provision related to graffiti. He explained that the provision stated that a city can no longer require a property owner to abate graffiti by ordinance or county order without the city first offering to abate the graffiti free of charge. He noted that if the property owner refused the city permission to abate, the city can then require the property owner to abate the graffiti. He added that legislation required city and county ordinances to be consistent with legislation and that staff was in the process of developing a strategy against said provision.

Michael Acosta reported that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) had two full-time employees that abate graffiti five days a week. He stated that TxDOT removed 250,000 square feet of graffiti in FY 2008; 310,000 square feet in FY 2009; and 100,000 square feet in FY 2010 to date.

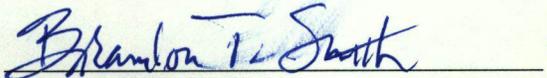
3. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.



John G. Clamp, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandon T. Smith
Office of the City Clerk

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