

**PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2011

12:00 PM

MUNICIPAL PLAZA ROOM B

Members Present: Councilmember David Medina, Jr., *Chair, District 5*
Councilmember Jennifer V. Ramos, *District 3*
Councilmember Carlton Soules, *District 10*

Members Absent: Councilmember Elisa Chan, *District 9*

Staff Present: Erik Walsh, *Assistant City Manager*; William McManus, *Police Chief*; Michael Bernard, *City Attorney*; Dennis Rosenberry, *Police Department*; Sheldon Belyeu, *Building & Equipment Services*; Robert Reyna, *Assistant City Attorney*; Samuel Garcia, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Others Present: Councilmember Diego Bernal, *District 1*; Milton Guess, *Tourism Council*; Marco Barros, *Tourism Council*; Bill Brendel, *Crockett Hotel*; Linda Winchester, *Tourism Council*; Tom Duff, *Riverwalk Int'l.*; Bebb Francis, *FLF,PC*; Brian Chasnoff, *Express News*; Naomi Brown, *Haven for Hope*; Olga Kecerak, *Downtown Residents Association*

Call to Order

Chairman D. Medina called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens to be Heard

Olga Kucerak, Downtown Residents Association, stated that an online petition had been placed on change.org and that 380 signatures had been verified expressing concern with the panhandling issue downtown and city-wide.

Milton Guess, Tourism Council, spoke in support of the Panhandling Ordinance. He stated that the Tourism Council would provide bus/meal coupons to assist individuals with transportation to meal centers.

Naomi Brown, Haven for Hope, spoke in support of educating the public to donate to organizations and non-profits that provide meal assistance to the homeless in place giving money to panhandlers.

Tom Duff, Riverwalk Interactive, stated that panhandling was a city-wide issue and spoke in support of providing SAPD with an ordinance that would make a difference regarding the issue.

Marco Barros, Tourism Council, provided copies of public comments regarding panhandling. He spoke in support of the Panhandling Ordinance as presented by Chief McManus.

2. Approval of minutes of the September 28, 2011 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Ramos moved to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2011 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Soules seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Briefing and Possible Action on an Amendment to the Panhandling Ordinance

Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police

Police Chief William McManus reported that in September 2011, staff presented an amendment to the existing Aggressive Solicitation Ordinance to expand the locations where panhandling is prohibited. He stated that the proposed language included the solicitation of *money or anything of value*. He noted that an amendment was proposed during City Council discussion to eliminate *anything of value* from the definition of solicitation. He added that the Police Department opposes the language change and recommends that the language remain as presented by staff.

Councilmember Bernal addressed the Committee to clarify his amendment. He expressed concern that the proposed language prohibited more activity than intent and stated that he would reluctantly proceed with the language as presented by staff. He requested a six-month review and a copy of the police training material utilized to enforce the ordinance.

Councilmember Soules stated that he had conferred with Councilmember Chan and she was in support of the ordinance language as presented by staff.

Councilmember Ramos moved to forward said item to the full Council for consideration. Councilmember Soules seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time, the Committee addressed Item 5.

5. Presentation of the San Antonio Police Department FY2012 Vehicle Replacement Program

Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police

Dennis Rosenberry reported that the Ford CVPI vehicle utilized by SAPD was no longer manufactured and the Police Department must decide now on a replacement. He provided Training Academy Police Patrol Vehicle Test Data on the following vehicles: 1) Dodge Charger; 2) Chevrolet Caprice; and 3) Chevrolet Tahoe and provided an overview of the comparison results. Based on test results, he stated that the Chevrolet Tahoe was the best Police Patrol Vehicle (PPV) for the San Antonio Police Department.

Councilmember Soules expressed SUV safety concerns and requested roll-over statistics for the proposed Tahoe Police Package. Chief McManus explained that the Tahoe Police Package had a different chassis and was lower to the ground than a showroom chassis. Sheldon Belyeu reported that the Tahoe Police Package had a lower center of gravity,

specialized wheels and a five-star crash test rating. He stated that he would provide the rollover statistics. Councilmember Ramos asked of the Tahoe maintenance costs in comparison to the Charger and Caprice.

4. Briefing and Possible Action on Roadway Solicitation
Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police

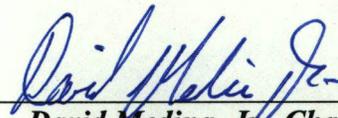
Chairman Medina recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 1:15 p.m. He reconvened the meeting at 1:45 p.m. and announced that no action was taken.

6. Consideration of items for future meetings

There were no items discussed.

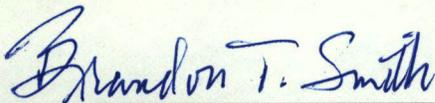
7. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.



David Medina, Jr., Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandon T. Smith
Office of the City Clerk