

-- SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, ON
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1986.

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The meeting was called to order at 4:53 P.M. by the presiding officer, Mayor Henry Cisneros, with the following members present: BERRIOZABAL, WEBB, DUTMER, WING, MARTINEZ, THOMPSON, VERA, HARRINGTON, LABATT, HASSLOCHER, CISNEROS. Absent: NONE.

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86-45 The City Clerk read the following Resolution:

A RESOLUTION NO. 86-45-46

APPROVING THE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN THE SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT OF SPECIFIC PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES DESIGNED TO PROVIDE IMPACT ON REPORTED CRIME RATES, THE FEAR OF CRIME, AND PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF AND SATISFACTION WITH THE SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT.

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Mrs. Dutmer made a motion that the Resolution be approved. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion.

Chief of Police Frank Hoyack stated that, in his opinion, the Resolution reflected what he believed to be the direction the City Council would like to see the Police Department take. He noted that since drug abuse is one of the City's most serious problems, strategies to deal with drug-related crimes would be developed.

City Manager Louis J. Fox stated that the Resolution is goal oriented and that, in the next few weeks, specific objectives would be applied. He spoke to specific issues that would be addressed, i.e. improved training for police officers, community interaction, downtown problems, and enhancement of the Repeat Offender Program.

Ms. Bonnie Sunvison, President of Shields of Bexar County, spoke to her organization's views and extended her best wishes to the new chief of police. She urged that the police department continue its drug enforcement policy.

Mrs. Maria Dominguez spoke to the recent resignation of the former chief of police and stated her opinion that the new chief should be allowed, in the best interest of the department, to make his own decisions

rather than be dictated to by higher authorities.

In response to a question by Mayor Cisneros, Chief Hoyack spoke to the projected timetable bringing the new six police substations to operation.

Chief Hoyack spoke to the strategy of the Neighborhood Crime Watch Program and its emphasis on prevention.

Mayor Cisneros asked the City Council to add specific language to the policy direction so that Neighborhood Crime Watch Programs will be an integral part of the Resolution. He also stated that the training academy was not mentioned.

Mr. Fox stated that management is committed to training.

Mayor Cisneros stated that, in view of the circumstances, in addition to having a new facility to train new officers, existing officers should receive career development to include counseling, etc. He asked that the Chief of Police, the City Manager and the Crime Prevention Council Committee come up with such recommendations.

In response to a question by Mr. Hasslocher, Mayor Cisneros stated that it may be necessary to increase funding for the Neighborhood Crime Watch Program.

In response to Mayor Cisneros, Chief Hoyack stated that there are other reasons, besides stress, that can cause the problems which have been appearing within the Police Department lately.

Mr. Hasslocher proposed an amendment to the motion to plan for career redevelopment for existing officers in addition to pre-police training. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mrs. Dutmer stated that one of the causes for repeat offenders is the light sentences received by criminals from liberal judges. She cited some of the problems that confront police officers, and spoke to safety factors as being the backbone of the City.

Mr. Harrington spoke to the large agenda that enactment of this Resolution would impose on the chief and suggested that he come back within the next thirty days to present a safety package and list his department's needs.

Mr. Wing took exception to the fact that the Resolution did not address neighborhoods. He stated that the police department needs visibility in the neighborhoods.

Mr. Fox stated that the intent of the Resolution is to reduce crime in all parts of the community.

Mayor Cisneros stated that he would like to see language that dealt specifically with Neighborhood Watch Programs and neighborhood patrols.

Ms. Berriozabal reiterated Mr. Wing's comments and noted that it should be mentioned in the Resolution that the City Council is serious about protecting the neighborhoods. She further stated that the Resolution should contain language committing to reducing the fear of crime in the downtown area and a statement to the effect that the City Council understands the importance of the work of police officers and the stressful conditions under which they work.

Mr. Webb spoke to recent incidents and complaints he had received from some of his constituents regarding police officers. He stated that a master plan for the police department should be developed.

Mayor Cisneros expressed his agreement with Mr. Webb's suggestion and stated that the plan could project the department's needs for the next five years.

Mr. Martinez expressed his support of the Resolution and spoke to a recent poll in his district that indicated crime in the neighborhoods topped the list of citizen concerns.

(At this point Mayor Cisneros was obliged to leave the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Dutner presided.)

Mr. Martinez then spoke to lack of communication between the department and the citizens and supported the move to decentralize the department as one which would improve communication. He expressed concern with the erosion of power and control in the office of the police chief and to factors that create this situation. He added that a police review process should be investigated as it relates to public confidence in the department but stated that the problems encountered with personnel in the department are minimal when compared to the size of the department. He expressed concern with the differences in the selection procedures of the former and present chiefs of police.

(Mayor Cisneros returned to meeting and presided.)

Ms. Berriozabal offered an amendment that the Chief of Police develop procedures and programs which support and initiate neighborhood-based efforts to reduce crime in neighborhoods and to include neighborhood watch programs, priority deployment of officers and other methods. Ms. Vera seconded the motion.

Mr. Webb offered a second amendment that would call for development of a master plan that would carry us into the 1990's, i.e., a police department structure and organization that points to a process to

September 11, 1986
mlr

deal with crime ridden problems or areas toward a reduction in crime, compatibility, accessibility, responsibility. Ms. Berriozabal seconded the motion.

Mr. Labatt stated that the Council needed to take some initiative to help improve the legislative structure and noted that two areas that should continue to be addressed are education and involvement of citizens and on-going training for police officers.

Mrs. Dutmer spoke to comments made by other council members and expressed her support for the two amendments before the Council.

Ms. Vera also expressed support for the amendments but stated that she could not support an increase in downtown patrols if the neighborhoods are not being dealt with properly.

In response to a question by Mayor Cisneros, Chief Hoyack stated that one of the department's number one priorities is protection of the neighborhoods and that one of the goals is to add more police officers to patrol the neighborhoods.

Mr. Harrington expressed his concern for neighborhood safety and commended the Repeat Offender Program. He spoke to traffic problems and traffic-related accidents. He added that he would like to see a safety education program in the schools.

The second amendment to develop a master plan prevailed by the following vote: AYES: Berriozabal, Webb, Dutmer, Wing, Martinez, Thompson, Vera, Harrington, Labatt, Hasslocher, Cisneros; NAYS: None; ABSENT: None.

The amendment related to neighborhoods prevailed by the following vote: AYES: Berriozabal, Webb, Dutmer, Wing, Martinez, Thompson, Vera, Harrington, Labatt, Hasslocher, Cisneros; NAYS: None; ABSENT: None.

Mr. Labatt then proposed an amendment that the Chief of Police, working with the City Attorney, establish a list of legislative changes of the judicial system that will support and enforce the efforts of the police department to reduce crime and that these changes be presented to the City Council for discussion to be included in the legislative package. Mr. Hasslocher seconded the motion.

The amendment prevailed by the following vote: AYES: Berriozabal, Webb, Dutmer, Wing, Martinez, Thompson, Vera, Harrington, Labatt, Hasslocher, Cisneros; NAYS: None; ABSENT: None.

Mrs. Dutmer then offered an amendment that in the fourth "Whereas" of the Resolution the words "in the amount of harassment, vandalism, and drunkenness and will be enhanced by a reduction" be struck as well as the words in Section 4 which read "amount of harassment,

vandalism, and drunkenness in the downtown area, and to reduce the." Mr. Hasslocher seconded the motion.

The amendment prevailed by the following vote: AYES: Berriozabal, Webb, Dutmer, Wing, Martinez, Thompson, Vera, Harrington, Labatt, Hasslocher, Cisneros; NAYS: None; ABSENT: None.

Mr. Hasslocher stated that his committee would like to get the Council's consensus in the form of a resolution on whether to pursue an enhanced 911 number system. He played for the Council a tape from a recent 20/20 program which dealt with this improved system.

Mayor Cisneros requested Mr. Hasslocher and his committee bring back to the Council for consideration a presentation on the enhanced 911 number system.

Mr. Hasslocher stated that the committee is basically in support of this enhanced system and they would like to pursue the feasibility and cost of adding it to our existing program.

The main motion, as amended, then prevailed by the following vote: AYES: Berriozabal, Webb, Dutmer, Wing, Martinez, Thompson, Vera, Harrington, Labatt, Hasslocher, Cisneros; NAYS: None; ABSENT: None.

There being no further business, the Special Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

A P P R O V E D

Henry Cisneros
M A Y O R

ATTEST *Roma S. Rodriguez*
C i t y C l e r k

September 11, 1986
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