

**Public Safety Council Committee  
Minutes**

**Wednesday, May 12, 2010**

**12:00 p.m.**

**Plaza Room B**

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

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

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**Staff Present:** Erik Walsh, *Assistant City Manager*; T.C. Broadnax, *Assistant City Manager*; Sharon De La Garza, *Assistant City Manager*; William McManus, *Police Chief*; David Garza, *Housing & Neighborhood Services Director*; Tony Bosmans, *Customer Service/311 Director*; Ramon Mendez, *Housing & Neighborhood Services Assistant Director*; Geraldine Garcia, *Assistant Police Chief*; Fred Garcia, *Municipal Court Clerk*; Ray Rodriguez, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Others Present:** Mitra Kermani, *Allied Towing*; Callie Enlow, *SA Current*; Eric Wilhite, *Texas Towing*; Ben Lopez, *United Road Towing*

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At this time, the Committee addressed Item 6.

**6. Update on Cell Phone Sign Placement in School Zones**

Presented by Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Public Works Director

Majed Al-Ghafry reported that there were 224 Cell Phone School Zone installation projects representing 349 schools. He stated that twelve projects had been completed at twenty schools, in addition to eighteen flashers. He noted that installation projects were in phase one of four with a concentration on elementary schools first.

In response to Chairman Clamp, Mr. Al-Ghafry stated that all phases of the project will be completed in April 2011. He noted that there may be some delays due to mobilization between Districts and added that the contractor will rotate through all ten City Council Districts covering all areas of the City.

Councilmember Taylor entered the meeting at this time.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Clamp called the meeting to order.

**1. Citizens to be Heard**

Citizens addressed the Committee during corresponding item.

### **3. Continuation of Graffiti Work Session**

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

Ramon Mendez informed the Committee that the current Graffiti Ordinance was no longer valid due to adoption of HB 2086. He stated that the current ordinance either be amended to maintain consistency with the new State Statute or be repealed. He noted that staff's recommendation was to move forward with the amendment to the current ordinance in order to maintain consistency with the new State Statute and continue to make the ordinance applicable to vacant commercial and residential properties only.

In response to Councilmember Taylor, Mr. Mendez clarified that if a property owner ignores or does not respond to a notice, the City can abate the graffiti and charge accordingly.

Chairman Clamp asked of opportunities to enhance penalties. Mr. Mendez stated that a request to review said legislation had been submitted to be included in the City's initiatives for the next Legislative Session. Chairman Clamp requested that a list of opportunities be provided to the full Council for discussion during the budget session.

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

### **2. Approval of minutes of the March 10, 2010 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting.**

Councilmember Lopez moved to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2010 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **4. Update on Municipal Court**

Presented by the Honorable Judge John Bull, Presiding Judge

Fred Garcia informed the Committee that over 28,000 Class C warrants had been cleared during the Warrant Round-up and noted that there was a \$400,000 increase in collections from the previous year.

Mr. Garcia also reported that the San Antonio Municipal Court had developed a process that allowed defendants with Class C traffic offenses to make a request for a driver safety course or deferred disposition on the Internet. He noted that if all requirements imposed by law had been met, a judge would notify the defendant if the request was approved without having to appear in court. Additionally, Mr. Garcia reported that Municipal Court had been working with the Customer Service/311 Department to pilot a program whereby a citizen would be allowed to see and speak with a judge via a video conference at a Community Link Center. He stated that an individual would be able to request a payment plan, driver's safety course, or deferred disposition. Tony Bosmans stated that the program will be piloted through the Oakridge Community Link Center for ten hours per week, eventually expanding to the remaining Community Link Centers. In response

to Chairman Clamp, Mr. Bosmans clarified that there will be a \$1.00 service charge for individuals utilizing the service. Chairman Clamp requested that Mr. Bosmans provide a Community Link Center update for discussion during the budget session.

**5. Update on Towing Services Contract**

Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police

Chief William McManus provided the following update:

- All contract towing companies were in compliance for the months of March and April
- Hand-held mobile devices should be ready for implementation by the end of May
- Extensions for submission of financial certified audits had been granted to contract companies: Allied – 60 days; ATS, Assured, and Texas Towing – 90 days

Chief McManus reported that a complaint had been received that URT was operating a Tow Crane Service without City authorization and that a cease and desist letter would be served.

**Citizens To Be Heard**

*Mitra Kermani*, Allied Towing, expressed concern that several towing contract providers have been operating in violation of the contract and requested that said issue be reviewed. Chairman Clamp informed her that an audit of the Towing Services Contract would be performed by the Office of the City Auditor in June 2010.

**7. Briefing on Public Safety Performance Measures**

Presented by Erik Walsh, Assistant City Manager

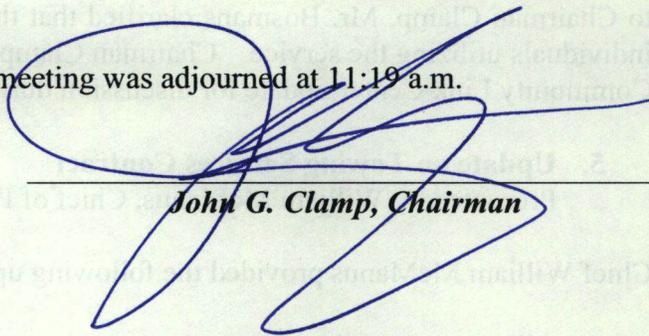
Erik Walsh provided an overview of additional performance measures for the San Antonio Police and Fire Departments to be included in the Quarterly Performance Report. He reported that the Fire Department measures focus on emergency response times of major divisions of the Department and EMS Transport. He noted that Police Department measures focus on crime data and crime clearance rates. He added that the report could be made flexible to adjust to future requests of the Committee.

**8. Consideration of items for future meetings**

Councilmember Lopez requested an update on the status of the Crime Commission.

**9. Adjournment**

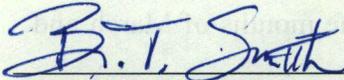
There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.



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**John G. Clamp, Chairman**

**Respectfully Submitted,**



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "Brandon T. Smith", is written over a horizontal line.

**Brandon T. Smith  
Office of the City Clerk**