

**PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY MAY 22, 2013
12:00 P.M.
MUNICIPAL PLAZA ROOM B**

Members Present:	Councilmember David Medina, Chair, <i>District 5</i> Councilmember Leticia Ozuna, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Elisa Chan, <i>District 9</i> Councilmember Carlton Soules, <i>District 10</i>
Members Absent:	None
Staff Present:	Jim Kopp, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Charles Hood, <i>Fire Chief</i> ; Noel Horan, <i>Deputy Fire Chief</i> ; Carl Wedige, <i>Deputy Fire Chief</i> ; David E. Martinez, <i>Deputy Fire Chief</i> ; Earl Crayton, <i>Assistant Fire Chief</i> ; Vance Meade, <i>Assistant Fire Chief</i> ; William McManus, <i>Police Chief</i> ; Steve Baum, <i>Interim Assistant Director</i> ; Denise Luckey, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Also Present:	Emily Kidd, M.D., <i>Interim Medical Director, SAFD, UTHSCSA</i> ; Lance Villers, <i>Interim Chair, Department of Emergency Health Sciences, UTHSCSA</i> ; Juanita Wallace, <i>Interim Dean, School of Health Professions, UTHSCSA</i>

Call to order

Chairman D. Medina called the meeting to order.

Item 2 was addressed at this time.

2. Approval of Minutes of the March 27, 2013 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Chan moved to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2013 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Soules seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Item 4 was addressed at this time.

4. Briefing on the San Antonio Fire Department Strategic Plan [Presented by Charles Hood, Fire Chief]

Chief Hood stated that 12 goals and 84 objectives were developed as part of the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) Strategic Plan. He stated that an inventory was taken by SAFD senior staff, appointed staff, and division heads and 15 goal teams were created, which involved over 130 SAFD Employees. He noted that at Councilmember Soules' recommendation, staff met with stakeholders; and recently, with 24 homeowner representatives. He indicated that said constituents were asked to identify priorities and department goals that the SAFD should focus on. He stated that this practice will continue and the SAFD will meet bi-annually with constituents. He indicated that the 12 goals identified were to: 1) Promote health and wellness; 2) Actualize team and personal safety; 3) Provide live customer service; 4) Enhance service

delivery; 5) Nurture training at all levels; 6) Foster leadership; 7) Cultivate professionalism, performance and accountability; 8) Improve communication; 9) Embrace diversity; 10) Increase community safety through hazard mitigation efforts; 11) Ensure fiscal responsibility and accountability; and 12) Advance technological innovations and capital asset modernization. He indicated that said Strategic Plan was made available to the entire department to solicit additional projects and tasks. He noted that the projects and tasks would serve as an Operational Plan (Plan) to achieve the stated goals and objectives. He stated that the Plan would serve to measure and monitor the success of the Strategic Plan and would constantly change as programs, projects, and tasks are designed, implemented, and revised.

Councilmember Soules noted that the resources required to achieve the stated goals were not identified. Chief Hood stated that said needs would be presented during the budget work sessions and would be prioritized according to the funds available.

Councilmember Chan asked that the SAFD identify the resources needed and based upon that, the City Council would determine the resources to be funded. Chief Hood indicated that the Committee would be provided with said information after discussion with the City Manager.

Councilmember Soules requested that the City Manager attend the next meeting to identify the required resources.

Councilmember D. Medina requested that the Committee be given a list of all resources needed that is not based on a set budget allocation amount. The Committee will advocate for the appropriate funding.

No action was taken on said item.

3. Briefing and Possible Action on the UT Health Science Center Medical Director and Training Contracts Renewal [Presented by Charles Hood, Fire Chief]

Chief Hood stated that 81% of all calls responded to by the SAFD were classified as medical emergencies. He noted that over 1,600 EMT-Basics/Paramedics require continuing education and approximately 40 EMTs and 50 Paramedics require initial training annually. He indicated that said training is currently provided under two Interlocal Agreements (ILAs) between the City of San Antonio (COSA) and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA). He reviewed the benefits of said agreements to COSA. He noted that State law requires an EMS (Emergency Medical Service) to be operated by a physician medical director and stated that UTHSCSA has provided both medical direction and training services since the inception of EMS. He stated that a consultant was hired in February 2011 to evaluate the provisions of said agreements compared to best practices throughout the country. He indicated that the consultant's findings and a recommendation to continue the ILAs with UTHSCSA were presented to the Public Safety Committee in May of 2011. He reported that several key issues were identified by the consultant. He noted that medical direction was separated from the existing contract to provide a more direct link from the Medical Director to the Fire Chief. He added that flexibility was included in the agreements to allow the SAFD to provide Basic EMT Training and Continuing Education, and the waiver of all tuition for EMT Basic and EMT Paramedic initial education was provided by the Texas Education Code. He stated that a two-year agreement was developed at UTHSCSA's request, with medical direction and training separated into two agreements. He reported that the two current EMS Medical Control and Training Agreements with UTHSCSA were approved by City Council on August 18, 2011. He

noted that a two-year extension was written into each agreement. He stated that staff recommends forwarding said agreements to the full City Council for consideration on May 30, 2013.

Councilmember Chan moved to forward said items to the full City Council on May 30, 2013. Councilmember Ozuna seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

5. Briefing and Possible Action on Changes to Chapter 33 – Vehicles for Hire [Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police]

Steve Baum indicated that public hearings for each Ground Transportation Industry were held on April 16th, 18th, and 19th to solicit input on changes to Chapter 33. He stated that separate meetings were held on April 19th with 11 members of the Horse Drawn Carriage Industry and on April 25th with eight members of the Taxicab Industry. He reported that the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) met on May 1, 2013 and unanimously recommended approval by City Council of the proposed changes to Chapter 33, Article I General Procedures, Article IV Horse Drawn Carriages, Article V Limousine Services, Article VI Pedicab Service, Article VII Tour and Charter Service, and Article VIII Taxicabs. He stated that the TAB would review the downtown minimum rate, the Airport minimum rate, and the Taxicab Permit Allocation Process during the rate review process in January 2014. He noted that the Taxicab Permit Allocation Process would be reviewed related to the maximum percentage of permits one company may own, the minimum number of permits required to start a company, and the transfer of permits. He reviewed the proposed revisions to Chapter 33 (Vehicle for Hire) recommended for City Council approval.

Chief McManus requested input from the Committee and recommended that additional public hearings be held before said item is forwarded to the full City Council for consideration.

Councilmember Chan asked of the concerns expressed by drivers regarding the proposed revisions. Chief McManus replied that drivers expressed concern that they were underrepresented at the public hearings due to the fact that they were held during Fiesta and drivers were busy serving customers. He stated that drivers expressed concern that the proposed changes would benefit owners more than drivers.

1. Citizens to be Heard

Chairman D. Medina called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Noah Tilman, Yellow Rose, HRH Carriage Company spoke in support of the proposed revisions to Chapter 33.

Cruz Chavira, TAB, Star Cab, spoke in opposition to the proposed revisions to Chapter 33. He stated that he is a member of the TAB and recommended that further discussions be held before said item is brought before City Council for consideration.

John Bouloubasis, GSATC, spoke in support of the proposed revisions to Chapter 33.

Marvin Peretz, Yellow Cab, requested that taxi drivers be included in the process and supports further discussion of said item.

Mike Hill, Observer, stated that he filed a complaint with the Internal Revenue Service regarding independent contractors and they failed to respond.

Hector Garcia, President, Alamo City Drivers Association, stated that he supports extending the vehicle age limit from five to eight years. He added that the turnaround time allowed to provide input was too short and was held during Fiesta Week. He suggested that an independent commission be appointed to represent taxicab drivers.

Wilbert Schmidt, Independent Cab Driver for Yellow Cab and Member of the Alamo City Drivers Association, stated that a committee should be formed that deals only with the Taxicab Industry. He stated that he supports changing the vehicle age requirement for taxicabs from five to eight years.

Kathy Stephens, Manager of Bluebonnet Carriage Company expressed support of the proposed revisions for the Carriage Industry.

Robert Gonzales, National Cab Company/TAB Member, emphasized that the drivers are the backbone of the industry. He stated that they brought their needs before the TAB and were dismissed. He added that drivers want to be heard and their recommendations implemented. He asked that an independent commission be formed.

George Alva, TAB Vice Chair and Member, expressed support for the proposed revisions to Chapter 33.

Larry Ramirez, National Cab, asked how the City rationalizes the regulating of taxicabs under Chapter 33 and not the Shuttle Companies. He noted that the City of San Antonio's (COSAs) authorization that a window sticker be displayed listing customer rights, how to submit compliments and complaints, and listing a phone number for the City creates a false impression that the taxicabs are affiliated with the City.

Octovio Manrasa, Excel and Member of the Alamo City Drivers Association, stated that he has to work 14-18 hours a day to remain in business.

Somi Zuniga, GSAR, indicated that more time should be given for review of the proposed revisions to Chapter 33.

Dirk Simmang, Alamo City Drivers Association, suggested that stability of the industry be provided.

Patricia Quigley, Excel, stated that the taxicab drivers desire changes and want to be heard.

Francine Dalros, Carriage Company, expressed support for the proposed revisions to Chapter 33.

Mr. Baum stated that there have been no major revisions to Chapter 33 since 1995. He indicated that all concerns have been expressed by the taxicab companies and drivers have been acknowledged by staff. He noted that Chapter 33 does not regulate cab stands, loading zones at the Alamodome and the AT & T Center, VIA Metropolitan Transit, Airport Shuttles, and the contractual agreements between drivers and Ground Transportation Companies. He stated that the TAB felt it imperative that taxicabs accept credit cards. He noted that drivers proposed that

a \$10.00 minimum credit card charge be required of customers and an extension of the 12 hour workday. He stated that said proposals were not included in the proposed revisions. He indicated that the permitting process will be vetted in the future and at this time; no additional permits would be issued. He added that rates are reviewed every two years and would be reviewed in January 2014.

Councilmember Soules asked of the specific issues raised concerning the proposed revisions to Chapter 33. Mr. Baum stated that the issues concerning drivers dealt with the mandated credit card acceptance and the 12 hour workday limit. He stated that because drivers are mandated to accept credit cards, they have requested that a \$10.00 minimum charge amount by customers be imposed to cover the cost of credit card processing fees. He added that said fees are approximately 3% and this fee may not be passed on to the consumer according to State Law. He indicated that the proposed revision to Chapter 33 allows companies to charge drivers a maximum of 5% for credit card processing and other fees.

Councilmember Chan expressed concern that drivers are charged a fee as the result of being required to accept credit cards for payment.

Councilmember Soules asked of the date of the last rate change. Mr. Baum stated that the last rate change was in 2011 and resulted in a 10% increase. He noted that rates are reviewed every two years on even numbered years. Councilmember Soules suggested building the credit card processing fee costs into the existing rate structure and requested that the timeline for reviewing the rate structure be accelerated. He requested that a representative from Public Works meet with the Committee to discuss transportation to and from the Alamodome. Chief McManus cautioned against leaving the time frame to review said rates open-ended and suggested that the Committee review the model utilized for rate review of non-consent towing fees.

Councilmember Soules moved to forward the proposed changes to Chapter 33 to the full City Council for consideration, adding that the Committee, along with the TAB and the industry, would discuss the timing for review of the rate structure in order to accelerate said review to consider incorporating credit card processing fees into said rate. He requested that Public Works meet with the Committee to discuss issues regarding the Alamodome. Councilmember Chan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

6. Consideration of items for future meetings

There were no items discussed.

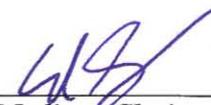
7. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



*Denice Treviño
Office of the City Clerk*



David Medina, Chair