

**Public Safety Council Committee
Minutes**

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

12:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Room B

Members Present: Councilmember John G. Clamp, *Chair, District 10*
Councilmember Ivy R. Taylor, *District 2*
Councilmember David Medina, Jr., *District 5*
Councilmember Ray Lopez, *District 6*

Members Absent: *None*

Staff Present: Erik Walsh, *Assistant City Manager*; Charles Hood, *Fire Chief*
William McManus, *Police Chief*; Rodney Hitzfelder, *Deputy
Fire Chief*; Carl Wedige, *Assistant Fire Chief*; Jose Bonales,
Assistant Police Chief; Jon Kaylan, *Assistant City Attorney*;
Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Others Present: Ron White, *Lone Star*; Mitsuko Ramos, *MRGRM*; Cruz Chavira,
Star Corporative; Isa Fernandez, *AACOG*; Robert Gonzalez,
National Cab; Miguel Guevara, *Excel Taxi*; Roger Perez

Chairman Clamp addressed Item 3.

**3. Update on Emergency Medical Service Education/Medical Oversight
Consultant Services**

Presented by Chief Charles Hood, San Antonio Fire Department

Fire Chief Charles Hood reported that the City of San Antonio currently had an agreement with the University of Texas Health Science Center-San Antonio to provide Emergency Direction and EMT-B/-P Training that would expire on September 30, 2011. He stated that the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) would utilize the Ludwig Group, LLC to research and evaluate best practices in EMS Training Systems to include the current training and Medical Direction Systems utilized by the SAFD. Erik Walsh indicated that the Department was utilizing a 90-day timeline and would report back to the Committee in May/June 2011. Chairman Clamp requested that staff provide a final briefing to the Committee in May and brief the new Public Safety Council Committee in June 2011.

4. Briefing on the Status of Public Safety IT Projects

Presented by Stephen Gaffigan, Assistant Director of Information Technology
Services Department for Public Safety

Stephen Gaffigan provided updates on various Public Safety Information Technology Projects within the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) and SAFD to include: 1) Police and Fire Computer Aided Dispatch; 2) Records Management System (RMS) and Automated Field Reporting (AFR); 3) Fire Station Alerting; 4) In Car Video; 5) eWarrants; 6) Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS); and 7) Radio Interoperability. He noted that the SAPD and SAFD desired to use better technology to

enhance each department's capabilities to provide a better service to the residents of San Antonio, as well as provide the latest tools for Police Officers and Fire Fighters.

Call to Order

Chairman Clamp called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes of the September 15, 2010 Public Safety Committee Special Meeting and the October 13, 2010 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Lopez moved to approve the Minutes of the September 15, 2010 Public Safety Council Committee Special Meeting and the October 13, 2010 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Citizens to be Heard

Robert Gonzalez, Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), thanked Dennis Rosenberry and Gary Gilbert for their support regarding the Ground Transportation Study and expressed concern on behalf of Taxicab Drivers regarding proposed revisions from the Study. He stated that the TAB opposed the revisions after hearing the concerns of the taxicab industry. He spoke in support of staff recommendations regarding a fair increase and the consolidation of Taxicab Permit Classes.

Miguel Guevara, Excel Taxicab, spoke in opposition to the Ground Transportation Study revisions. He stated that additional cabs were not needed to adequately meet the demand in the City.

Cruz Chavira, Taxicab Driver, spoke in opposition to staff's recommendation to include hybrid and wheelchair permits into the formula to determine the amount of taxicabs needed in the City of San Antonio. He stated that the solution was to redistribute the number of taxicab permits granted and not place a freeze on the permits.

Mitsuko Ramos, MRGRM, stated that she was speaking on behalf of Ray Dotson, owner of Alamo Stage Lines, regarding Horse-Drawn Carriages. She provided a timeline of issues encountered by Alamo Stage Line with SAPD, noting that Alamo Stage Lines was approved for a horse carriage permit in September 2009 by SAPD. She stated that shortly thereafter, staff realized that City Council approval was required and revoked the permit. She noted that in January 2010, the City Council approved interim permits to the existing five vendors and denied additional permits until a study could be completed to determine the impact on traffic. She added that the 2011 Study recommended two additional Horse-Drawn Carriage Permits and that there was no impact to traffic. She requested that staff recognize the recommendation for approval of Mr. Dotson's application in September, 2009; January, 2010; and the additional permits recommended in the 2011 Study recommendations.

Ron White, Owner-Lone Star Carriage Company, stated that his family had been in business in Downtown San Antonio since 1980 with a total of five horse-drawn carriages. He noted that he had applied for a horse-drawn carriage permit on eight (8) occasions and

denied each time. He indicated that he had secured an attorney and was granted a permit on September 23, 2009 that was revoked approximately two weeks later. He added that he has invested in expanding his company in order to comply with a contract with four downtown hotels and losing on the investment. He requested approval of his application for a permit.

5. Briefing on the Ground Transportation Study

Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police

Chief McManus reported that Tennessee Transportation and Logistics Foundation (TTLF) conducted a review of the Taxicab and Horse-Drawn Carriage Industries in San Antonio. He stated that the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) reviewed TTLF's final report on January 3, 2011. Mr. Rosenberry reported that the TTLF addressed 25 key areas; 12 of which pertaining to the Taxicab Industry. He stated that many of the proposed recommendations were controversial and would have reduced the number of taxicabs by 216. With regard to the Horse-Drawn Carriage Industry, he stated that the TTLF recommended concession contracts as opposed to permitting horse-drawn carriage operations. The TTLF recommendation also cited the opportunity to allow five additional permits under the concession contract proposal. Mr. Rosenberry stated that the TAB recommended against the adoption of the TTLF's Taxicab Industry recommendations (12 key areas) and referred six of the 12 areas regarding the Horse-Drawn Carriage Industry to the TAB Subcommittee for further review. He noted that staff concurred with the TAB's recommendations. He added that staff was requesting City Council approval of the following items on January 20, 2011:

- ✦ Increase taxicab meter drop rate to \$3.00 (\$4.00 night time)
- ✦ Eliminate \$5.00 minimum fare
- ✦ Amend the permit formula calculation to include Hybrid and ADA accessible taxicabs

Councilmember Taylor asked of staff's rationale to increase the taxicab meter drop rate while the TAB recommended against it. Mr. Rosenberry replied that staff determined that a meter drop rate increase had less of an impact than increasing the mileage rate. Councilmember Taylor expressed concern that Mr. White was denied a horse carriage permit on eight occasions and had been forced to hire an attorney. She asked of the previous criteria for granting permits. Mr. Rosenberry stated that he was unaware of the criteria utilized at the time. It was reported that there was only one application on file for Mr. White and that criteria for approval was based on the issue of the number of carriages on the street and overloading carriage stands. Mr. Walsh stated that the Police Department did not have the authority to permit horse-drawn carriages at that time and noted that the authority to permit horse-drawn carriages lied solely with the City Council. He added that it was realized that the Police Department was not following the City Code in 2009. Councilmember Taylor stated that permits were granted and denied and requested that staff provide any history available during that time. She also requested that Mr. White provide any documentation regarding his previous application attempts. She asked Chief McManus of his concerns regarding said issue. Chief McManus stated that based on traffic congestion downtown, he felt that additional carriages would become a public safety issue. Councilmember Taylor spoke of the consultant's recommendation for five additional permits and questioned Chief McManus' opposition

to additional permits. Chairman Clamp requested that the Committee review the issue and revisit said item at the February Public Safety Meeting.

6. Update on Towing Services Contract
Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police

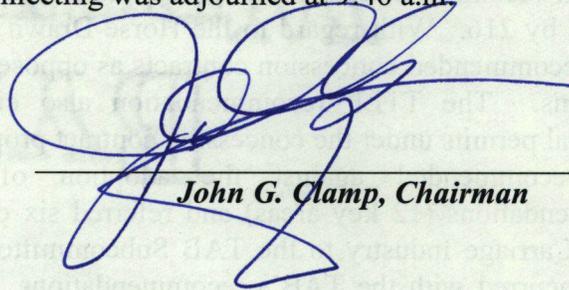
Item 4 was not addressed.

7. Consideration of items for future meetings

Chairman Clamp requested a briefing on Parking Boot Operations.

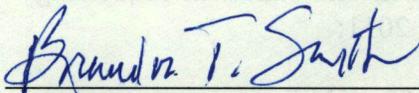
8. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.



John G. Clamp, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandon T. Smith
Office of the City Clerk