

**PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2014

12:00 P.M.

MUNICIPAL PLAZA ROOM B

Members Present: Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, *District 3*
Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, *District 5*
Councilmember Cris Medina, *District 7*

Members Absent: Councilmember Joe Krier, *District 9*
Councilmember Carlton Soules, Chair, *District 10*

Staff Present: Erik Walsh, *Deputy City Manager*; Peter Zaroni, *Deputy City Manager*; Jim Kopp, *Assistant City Attorney*; William McManus, *Police Chief*; Jeff Humphrey, *Deputy Chief of Police*; Anthony Treviño, *Deputy Chief of Police*; Mike Frisbie, *Director, Transportation and Capital Improvements Department*; Anthony Chukwudolue, *Assistant Director, Transportation and Capital Improvements Department*; Denice Trevino, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Randy Escamilla, *Reporter, News 4 San Antonio*

Call to order

1. Citizens to be Heard

There were no items addressed by Citizens.

2. Approval of Minutes of the December 5, 2013 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting

It was noted that the correct date of the minutes presented for approval was December 4, 2013; not December 5, 2013. Councilmember Viagran moved to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2013 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Briefing on Pedestrian Safety [Presented by Mike Frisbie, Transportation and Capital Improvements Director]

Mike Frisbie reported that the Capital Improvement Management Service (CIMS) Department was now named the Transportation and Capital Improvement (TCI) Department and that the Public Works Department was recently incorporated into the TCI Department.

Anthony Chukwudolue noted that the Department of TCI is dedicated to providing a safe and mobile infrastructure network throughout the community for all modes of traffic. He stated that

the three “E”s of Traffic Safety were: 1) Education, to include public awareness and education on traffic safety through focused campaigns; 2) Enforcement, to include a law enforcement presence and speed radar; and 3) Engineering, to include the use of traffic calming measures to impact traffic (drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists). He indicated that TCI maintains the City’s transportation infrastructure through the Infrastructure Management Program (IMP) which includes intersection and signal improvements, bike facilities, sidewalks, streets, and pavement markings. He mentioned that other mechanisms for maintaining the infrastructure outlet were the Neighborhood Access and Mobility Program (NAMM), Traffic Calming Initiatives, Traffic Signal Synchronization & Modernization Program (TSSM), and Capital Projects. He stated that TCI addressed two Council Consideration Requests (CCRs) seeking to identify additional ways in which motorist and pedestrian safety could be improved. He reported that Councilmember Medina submitted the *Safe Streets* CCR which focused on decreasing speeding along residential streets and areas with high pedestrian activity. He stated that Councilmember Bernal submitted the *Safe Access to Schools* CCR which was aimed at increasing sidewalk connectivity and lighting around Elementary Schools. He reported that key initiatives were created in response to said CCRs and included Traffic Calming Pilot Projects, Speed Reduction Pilot Program, and the ongoing Speed Hump Program. He noted that staff worked with the City Council Offices to identify areas of concern when addressing Councilmember Medina’s CCR and with the School Districts when addressing Councilmember Bernal’s CCR.

Mr. Chukwudolue provided details on each Pilot Program/Project. He reported that during the FY 2014 Budget Process City Council approved \$4.5 million to be utilized to improve connectivity around schools. He noted that lighting around schools would be reviewed in coordination with City Public Service (CPS) Energy. He indicated that four focus areas have been or were in the process of being completed: 1) Medical Center Area; 2) Zarzamora Corridor; 3) Fredericksburg Road; and 4) Culebra Road. He reviewed the Safety Improvement Plans for each focus area and noted that staff worked closely with Councilmembers from Districts in which said areas were located. He noted that the next steps were to: 1) Continue with improvements along key corridors and areas; 2) Implement and assess the effectiveness of Traffic Calming Projects and the Speed Reduction Program; 3) Continue evaluation of accident data to develop safety enhancements for selected corridors through the Traffic Safety Initiative; and 4) Design and deploy an Improved Pavements Parking Program to increase re-marking frequency, promote pedestrian use of crosswalks and raise motorist awareness. He mentioned that this may require the reallocation of funds which would require City Council approval. He stated that at the request of Councilmember Gonzales, TCI was exploring the feasibility of establishing Pedestrian Priority Zones (PPZs) in select areas of the City. He explained that PPZs incorporate widened sidewalks, tree-lined canopies, clutter reduction, decreased traffic speeds and making right turns on red lights illegal. He stated that PPZs redefine streets by giving pedestrians and cyclists legal priority over motorists. He mentioned that the City of San Antonio (COSA) follows a Complete Streets Policy which required streets to be planned, designed, operated, and maintained to support all modes of transportation equally. He indicated that the implementation of these safety measures would have a significant fiscal impact. He noted that TCI has used existing resources to execute budgeted programs as well as newly identified safety enhancements. He stated that staff would present to the City Council in March 2014.

Councilmember Viagran asked for accident data from Chief McManus. Chief McManus reported that there were 47 pedestrian fatalities in 2012. Mr. Chukwudolue reported that between 2010 and November 2013, there were 50 fatalities of which 140 involved pedestrians and 10 involved cyclists. Councilmember Viagran asked of the timeline for evaluation of the site of a fatality. Mr. Chukwudolue indicated that said site would be evaluated the next day. Councilmember Viagran asked how Key Corridors were identified. Mr. Chukwudolue replied that they were identified based on Geographic Information Services (GIS) Data and feedback from Councilmembers. He noted that said data identified locations in which a high concentration of accidents have occurred. Councilmember Viagran encouraged staff to coordinate bus stop locations and the education of riders with VIA Metropolitan Transit (VIA). Mr. Chukwudolue reported that an educational campaign has been implemented on VIA Buses. He added that a multi-department effort will be made between Public Works, SAPD, VIA, and the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) to create an Outreach Educational Program.

Councilmember Gonzales asked how average speed was determined. Mr. Chukwudolue replied that a speed study would be performed in which vehicle speeds were recorded over a 24-48 hour period. Councilmember Gonzales noted that the average speed is slower when there are fewer lanes.

Councilmember Medina asked of the penalties for speeding violations and the resources in place to address speeding. Chief McManus reviewed the process in which Officers respond to calls reporting a speeding offense. He noted that enforcement cannot remedy this problem as much as education.

No action was required for Item 3.

4. Briefing on School Crossing Guard Program [Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police]

Chief McManus reported that there were 230 School Crossings in the City of San Antonio (COSA). He stated that there were 256 Part-Time School Crossing Guards (Guards) and six SAPD Officers assigned to the School Crossing Guard Program (Program). He noted that said SAPD Officers were not sworn Officers. He mentioned that the hiring process was continuous and the starting pay for Guards was \$11.08 per hour. He reported that the Program's Budget was \$2.3 million in FY 2014. He stated that the funding provided was generated by Bexar County Vehicle Registration Fees, Court Fees, and a 6% Fund Balance from FY 2013. He reviewed the process by which Guards were hired. He noted that requests for Guards were approved based on studies performed by Public Works. He added that Guards were utilized only for Elementary Schools.

Councilmember Medina requested that a review of the Program be performed to ensure its efficiency. He also requested a map of school crossings by District. Chief McManus indicated that said map would be provided.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the roles of SAPD and School District Police. Chief McManus stated that SAPD served as the leader and the School District Police served as a Key

Stakeholder. He stated that SAPD would meet with School Districts to improve Safety Education in schools. Councilmember Viagran requested data on citations issued to drivers using their Cell Phones in School Zones. Chief McManus replied that said data would be provided.

Councilmember Gonzales expressed concern that there were not enough crosswalks in some locations, some of which locations where fatalities have occurred. She requested that other options be identified and presented to the Committee to address speeding.

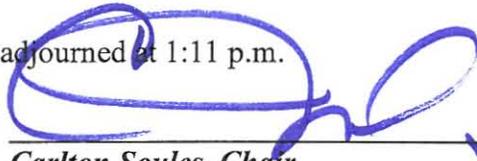
5. Consideration of Items for Future Meetings

Erik Walsh requested that the SAPD Body Worn Police Camera Pilot Program be placed on next month's agenda for discussion. Councilmember Medina noted that the February Council Committee Meeting would be rescheduled.

6. Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

for



Carlton Soules, Chair

Respectfully Submitted,



*Denice F. Treviño
Office of the City Clerk*