

**PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014**

**3:00 P.M.**

**MUNICIPAL PLAZA ROOM B**

**Members Present:** Councilmember Cris Medina, Chair, *District 7*  
Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, *District 3*  
Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, *District 5*  
Councilmember Michael Gallagher, *District 10*

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**Members Absent:** Councilmember Joe Krier, *District 9*

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**Staff Present:** Erik Walsh, *Deputy City Manager*; William McManus, *Police Chief*; John Bull, *Presiding Judge, Municipal Court*; Steven Baum, *Assistant Director, SAPD*; Anthony Treviño, *Deputy Chief of Police, SAPD*; Troy Houtman, *Assistant Director, Center City Development Office/Downtown Operations*; Denice Trevino, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Also Present:** Scott Anderson, *Vice President, Haven for Hope*; Allan Cross, *Vice President, Center for Healthcare Services*; Gilbert Gonzales, *Director, Mental Health, Mental Health Department, Bexar County*; Mike Lozito, *Director, Judicial Services, Bexar County*

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**Call to order**

Chairman Medina thanked Councilmember Soules for his service to the Public Safety Council Committee and welcomed Councilmember Gallagher as a member of the Committee.

**Citizens to be Heard**

There were no items addressed by Citizens.

**1. Approval of Minutes of the January 23, 2014 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting**

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2014 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

**2. Briefing on Body Worn Police Camera Pilot [Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police]**

Chief McManus reported that Body Worn Police Cameras (Cameras) were deployed in 628 San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) Vehicles, Traffic and Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Cars, all six Substations which include the Problem-Oriented Policing (POP), Gang, and Covert Units, and the

SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) Detail. He noted that said Cameras were not deployed in the Downtown Foot/Bike Patrol. He indicated that Phase I of the Body Worn Digital Recording Systems Pilot Program (Pilot) began in 2001 and was funded by a Community-Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technical Grant. He stated that said Grant provided funding for Cameras to be deployed in DUI Cars and on SAPD Motorcycles. He reported that Phase II of the Pilot Program began in October 2011 and was funded by City Financing. He stated that during this Phase, Cameras were deployed at the Central Substation, Vehicle Crimes, Academic Court, SAPD Helicopter, and the Canine and Covert Units. He indicated that Phase III of the Pilot Program began in April 2013 and was funded by City Financing. He stated that during this Phase, Cameras were deployed at the Southeast, East, West, North, and Prue Substations. He added that in Phase IV, the final 27 SAPD vehicles would have Cameras installed in them by Spring 2014.

Chief McManus noted that the Airport Police tested two Camera Models in January 2012 and selected the Coban VieVu due to its size, weight, ease of use, and sturdiness. He mentioned that said Camera was compatible with the Coban In-Car System. He stated that the Airport Police had 57 authorized positions and 35 Cameras were purchased. He noted that following training in January 2014, said Cameras were issued to Officers at the beginning of each shift and were rotated. He stated that the reasons for deploying the Cameras were: 1) Officer accountability; 2) Evidentiary value; 3) Citizen confidence; and 4) To reduce the number of frivolous citizen complaints filed against Police Officers. He reported that the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) was working with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to develop recommendations for a Model Policy. He indicated that the PERF would release their policy recommendations in March 2014 and would address privacy issues, use of Cameras, and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). He mentioned that the City of Fort Worth was the only city in Texas that has fully deployed said Cameras. He reported that the Cities of Phoenix, Scottsdale, Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, and El Paso were currently testing them. He indicated that six companies provided a total of 25 Cameras at no cost to the City for use in the Pilot Program. He stated that these Cameras would be deployed at the Substations and with the Downtown Bike/Foot Patrol and issued to 25 Officers who would test a total of 150 Cameras. He mentioned that any costs related to the Cameras would be absorbed by the Operating Budget. He noted that the (SAPOA) and the Labor Relations Committee would be included in the testing and evaluation of the Cameras. He indicated that said testing would begin in March 2014 and end in September 2014. He noted that the final evaluation would be conducted in October 2014. He stated that the Department would present the findings of the Pilot Program to the Public Safety Committee in December 2014.

Councilmember Gallagher asked of the advantages and disadvantages of the Cameras. Chief McManus stated that in Fort Worth, the Police Officers have reacted positively to the use of the Cameras and said Cameras have gotten them out of trouble more times than not. Councilmember Gallagher asked if the Camera footage was admissible in Court. Chief McManus replied that it was.

Councilmember Viagran asked for clarification of the number of Cameras that would be reviewed. Chief McManus stated that 150 Cameras would be reviewed. Councilmember Viagran asked if the evaluation was to determine if said Cameras were a necessity or had a positive effect for Police Officers. She asked what would be admissible in Court, when the Cameras should be turned on and off, and if there were any privacy issues to address that required further discussion. Chief McManus replied that the answers to these questions would be based on other policies developed in the State and SAPD would look to the PERF for those answers. Councilmember Viagran asked if the Cameras were compatible

with the existing technology utilized by SAPD. Chief McManus noted that only one of those to be tested was.

Councilmember Gonzales noted that it would be difficult to find specific footage and asked of the costs associated with time spent locating said footage and storage. Chief McManus stated that the Cameras required manual upload of the footage and these were questions whose answers needed to be determined.

Chairman Medina inquired of the cost of the Cameras. Erik Walsh stated that the cost of the Cameras ranged from \$1,200 to \$3,300.

Councilmember Viagran asked Chief McManus was confident that the questions that were posed today would be answered at the conclusion of the Pilot Program. Chief McManus replied that they would.

### **3. Briefing on Strategies to Address Quality of Life Issues [Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police]**

Chief McManus stated that SAPD developed a Strategic Plan to develop viable and sustainable solutions to chronic panhandling and other quality of life issues. He stated that the following issues would be addressed:

1. Chronic Inebriation
2. Panhandlers (with or without Chronic Inebriation)
3. Mental illness (with or without Chronic Inebriation)

He indicated that said violators would be charged with a Class C Misdemeanor. He reported that the violators, if arrested, would appear before the Magistrate, and were often times released at that time for time served. He noted that a number of the violators were arrested over and over. He explained that once an individual is arrested four times within 24 months, SAPD would have the ability to utilize Enhanced Codes. He stated that said Enhanced Codes would make it possible to raise a Class C Misdemeanor to a Class A or B Misdemeanor and once that was done; a Judge could sentence that individual for treatment or other enhanced sentencing options. He mentioned that staff were exploring the option of creating an Ordinance that would make it illegal to give money to Panhandlers at intersection.

He noted that said issues were to be addressed in the area adjacent to Haven for Hope but would also be addressed City-Wide. He reported that SAPD convened the following list of Committee of Stakeholders in December 2013:

1. Courts at Law Administration
2. Bexar County District Attorney's Office (Magistrate and Detention Center)
3. Bexar County Mental Health Court
4. Bexar County Probation Court
5. Bexar County Pre-Trial Services
6. Bexar County Magistrates Office
7. Bexar County Sheriff's Office

8. Center for Health Care Services
9. Department of Human Services
10. Felony Drug Court
11. Municipal Court
12. Downtown Operations Department
13. Haven for Hope
14. Other service providers
15. Related Administrative Offices

He mentioned that staff was exploring the option of creating an Ordinance making it illegal to give money to Panhandlers at intersections.

Councilmember Gallagher asked where the Panhandlers were coming from. Chief McManus indicated that many were homeless and possibly came from Haven for Hope. Councilmember Gallagher asked if any came from other cities. Chief McManus replied that some of them came from other cities.

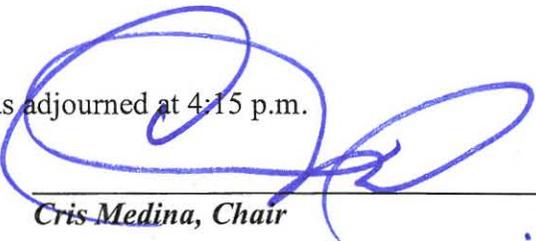
Councilmember Viagran asked how the SAPD partnered with Downtown Businesses. Chief McManus reported that he attended the Houston Street Business Associates Meeting where the 30-40 attendees expressed concern for this issue. Chief McManus reported that he assured them that the Downtown Bike/Foot Patrol would work to reduce that activity.

#### **Consideration of Items for Future Meetings**

Councilmember Viagran requested a report on Human and Sex Trafficking.

#### **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.



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*Cris Medina, Chair*

*Respectfully Submitted,*



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*Denice F. Treviño  
Office of the City Clerk*