

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO,

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27TH, A.D.1917, 4 P.M.

PRESENT: Honorable Sam C. Bell. Mayor, presiding, and Commissioners Coy, Lambert, Heuermann and Lowther.

Minutes of previous meeting were ordered approved.

----MEMORIALS AND PETITIONS----

Petition to have South Laredo Street tarviated was read and referred to Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements. ----

Petition of J.R.Willis for permit to locate lunch wagon at Houston St. and Ave C was read and referred to Commissioner of Fire and Police. ----

Petition of D.D.Harrigan for correction of assessment was read and referred to Commissioner of Taxation. ----

Commissioner Heuermann recommended that petition of San Antonio Public Service Co. for permit to construct a switch on North Flores Street at San Pedro Springs Park be granted, location to be defined by City Engineer. Adopted. ----

The following resolution was read and adopted:

RESOLUTION

Accepting West French Place pavement, between Main and San Pedro Avenues.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that, the City of San Antonio does hereby accept the pavement constructed by the Uvalde Rock Asphalt Company on West French Place, between Main and San Pedro Avenues, the date of acceptance being hereby fixed on December 27, 1917, in accordance with the certificate of the City Engineer filed with the Board of Commissioners on December 27, 1917

San Antonio, Texas, Dec 27, 1917.

Honorable Mayor and Board of Commissioners,

San Antonio, Texas.

Gentlemen:

This is to certify that the paving of West French Place, between Main Avenue and San Pedro Avenue, has been completed in accordance with the contract entered into with the Uvalde Rock Asphalt Company and the same has been accepted by me for account of the City of San Antonio, on this the 27th day of December, 1917.

Yours truly,

Hans Helland, City Engineer,

The following resolution was read and adopted:

RESOLUTION

Accepting paving in alley between Avenues D and E, City Block 435.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that, the City of San Antonio does hereby accept the pavement constructed by H.L.Montandor in alley between Avenues D and E in new City Block No. 425, the date of acceptance being hereby fixed on December 27, 1917, in accordance with certificate of the City Engineer filed with the Board of Commissioners on December 27, 1917.

San Antonio, Texas, Dec 27, 1917.

Honorable Mayor and Board of Commissioners,
City.

Dear Sirs:

This is to certify that the paving of part of an alley between Avenues D and E

in New City Block 425 in San Antonio, Texas, has been accepted in accordance with the contract entered into with H.L.Montander, and that the same has been accepted by me for account of the City of San Antonio, this 27th day of December, 1917.

Yours truly,

Hans Helland, City Engineer.

The following resolution was read and adopted:

RESOLUTION

Accepting bridge on S.Flores Street over San Pedro Creek.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that, the City of San Antonio does hereby accept the re-inforced concrete bridge on S.Flores Street over the San Pedro Creek, the date of acceptance being hereby fixed on the 24th day of December 1917 in accordance with the certificate of the City Engineer filed with the City Commissioners on December 24, 1917.

The following resolution was read and adopted:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that, the San Antonio Water Supply Company be and is hereby directed to at once lay a six inch water main from the present end of its main in Brackenridge Park near the proposed Balloon School to the City Limits, and that the United States Government be and is hereby permitted to clear the brush on City property known as Rock Quarry Park to provide for six openings, each to be 150' x 150' in area.

Commissioner Heuermann introduced the following ordinance which was read and adopted by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Bell, Coy, Lambert, Heuermann and Lowther.

236

AN ORDINANCE

Authorizing the purchase of 10.45 acres of land to be used in connection with an incinerator site, and making appropriation therefor.

MC-82

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO,

WHEREAS, the San Antonio Water Supply Company, a corporation of Bexar County, Texas, has proposed to sell and convey to the City of San Antonio a tract of 10.45 acres of land out of the Charles F.King survey in Bexar County, Texas, on the Salado Creek, and being the same property conveyed to H.E.Ellsworth by H.U.Rhodius by deed dated May 26, 1913, and recorded in Volume ~~149~~ 419, page 219, Deed Records of Bexar County, Texas, for a cash consideration of \$4774.05; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the City of San Antonio to acquire said land to be used in connection with the erection maintenance and operation of an incinerator plant; Now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

Section 1. That the proposition of said San Antonio Water Supply Company be and the same is hereby accepted, and the proper officers of the City are hereby authorized to complete the details of said purchase.

Section 2. There is hereby appropriated out of the Garbage Inciberator Fund the sum of Four Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy four and 05/100 (\$4774.05) Dollars, warrant for which shall be drawn to the order of the San Antonio Water Supply Company, to be delivered upon the execution and delivery of a warranty deed,

approved by the City Attorney as to form, conveying a fee simple title in the above described property to the City, together with releases of the deed of trust liens now affecting said property.

Commissioner Heuermann introduced the following ordinance which was read and adopted by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Bell, Coy, Lambert, Heuermann and Lowther.

No. 237

AN ORDONANCE

Authorizing the purchase of an incinerator site and making appropriation therefor.

WHEREAS, John J. Stevens, of Bexar County, Texas, has offered to sell to the City of San Antonio a triangular tract of land near the Salado Creek, containing about five (5) acres, taken from the east side of a triangular tract of land on the Salado Creek of about 17.8 acres out of the Charles F. King survey in Bexar County, Texas, purchased by said John J. Stevens on August 25, 1915, from the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway Company of Texas, as per deed recorded in Bexar County records in Volume 467, pages 320-321; for a consideration of Six Hundred (\$600.00) Dollars, and that said City of San Antonio will permit the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway Company of Texas, its successors or assigns, to operate such rail road spur tracks upon, over or across said premises as may be necessary for removing, hauling or transporting any and all gravel that may be taken out of or from said 17.8 acre tract of land; grantor to reserve all the rails and angle-bars in use upon the railroad tracks or spurs located upon said property, the same being the property of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway Company of Texas, and also reserving from said conveyance to said grantor, his heirs or assigns, for a period of ten years, the right or privilege of taking from the above described land all gravel situated thereon that can be taken or removed from said premises without damaging or injuring any of the buildings or other improvements erected or placed upon said property by the City of San Antonio or without interfering or preventing the ordinary use and enjoyment of such buildings or improvements; and

WHEREAS, said land is necessary for the use of said City for the erection, maintenance and operation of an incinerator plant: Therefore

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

Section 1. That the proposition of said John J. Stevens to sell and convey said five acres of land to the City of San Antonio for an incinerator plant be and the same is hereby accepted, and the proper officers of said City are hereby authorized to complete the details of said purchase.

Section 2. There is hereby appropriated out of the Garbage Incinerator Fund the sum of Six Hundred (\$600.00) Dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, warrant for which shall be drawn to the order of John J. Stevens, to be delivered on the delivery to the Mayor of said City of a good and sufficient deed, approved by the City Attorney as to form.

Commissioner Coy introduced the following ordinance which was read and adopted by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Bell, Coy, Lambert, Heuermann and Lowther.

No. 238

AN ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that, the following sums be and are hereby transferred to the 1916 General Fund, to-wit:

Out of the Back Tax Fund	\$17,250.00
Out of the 1915 General Fund	15,000.00

and that the City Auditor be and is hereby directed to make the necessary entries evidencing such transfer.

MC-83

-84

Commissioner Heuermann introduced the following ordinance, which was read and adopted by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Bell, Coy, Lambert, Heuermann and Lowther.

AN ORDINANCE

AUTHORIZING THE San Antonio Belt & Terminal Railway Company and the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway Company of Texas and C.E.Schaff, Receiver, to lay and operate a line of railway track from a point on its right of way in the City of San Antonio south of Arsenal Street into the Government Arsenal ground fronting on South Flores Street, said track entering the south side of Arsenal Street about half way between South Flores Street and the east line of its right of way; thence in a northeasterly direction crossing South Flores Street approximately where the north line of Arsenal Street crosses South Flores Street and entering the Arsenal grounds at or near the southwest corner thereof, and repealing a similar ordinance passed and approved on December 17, 1917.

(For full text of this ordinance see Ordinance Book F, page 288)

Commissioner Coy introduced the following ordinance which was read and adopted by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Bell, Coy, Lambert, Heuermann and Lowther.

No. 239

AN ORDINANCE

Appropriating \$92,516.25 to pay principal and interest on two notes of the City. BE IT ORDAINED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that, the sum of \$92,516.25 be and is hereby appropriated out of the 1916 General Fund to pay principal and interest on two notes as follows. to-wit:

Note No. 30, maturing January 1, 1918, in favor Alamo National Bank	\$45,000.00
Note No. 31, maturing January 1, 1918, in favor State National Bank	45,000.00
Interest on same	<u>2,516.25</u>
	\$92,516.25

Commissioner Coy introduced the following ordinance, which was read and adopted by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Bell, Coy, Lambert, Heuermann and Lowther.

No. 240

AN ORDINANCE

Appropriating funds to pay interest coupons, and exchange.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that, the following sums be and are hereby appropriated to meet the payment of interest coupons with exchange, as follows, to-wit:

Out of General Sinking Fund	\$3832.50
" Int. Dist. #2 " "	475.00
" " " 11 " "	25.00
1917 General Fund for exchange	<u>6.50</u>
	\$4339.00

Commissioner Coy introduced the following ordinances, which were read and adopted by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Bell, Coy, Lambert, Heuermann and Lowther.

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF BEXAR
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO.

AN ORDINANCE

Providing for borrowing Twelve Thousand Dollars from the State National Bank of San

MC-86

-87

-88

Antonio, Texas for the use of the City.

(For full text of this ordinance see Contract Record Book Vol A, page 183)

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THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF BEXAR
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO.

AN ORDINANCE

MC-89

Providing for borrowing Twelve Thousand Dollars from the Alamo National Bank of San Antonio, Texas for the use of the City.

(For full text of this ordinance see Record Book of Contracts, Vol A, page 187)

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City of San Antonio,
County of Bexar
State of Texas.

AN ORDINANCE

-90

Providing for borrowing \$40,000.00 from the State National Bank of San Antonio Texas for the use of the City.

(For full text of this ordinance see Record of Contracts Book, Vol N A, page 191.

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CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
COUNTY OF BEXAR
STATE OF TEXAS.

AN ORDINANCE

-91

Providing for borrowing Forty Thousand Dollars from the Alamo National Bank of San Antonio, Texas for the use of the City.

(For full text of this ordinance see Contract Record Book, Vol A, page 195)

Commissioner Lowther submitted the following appointments which were confirmed by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Bell, Coy, Lambert, Heuermann and Lowther. To be Policewomen for two months: Mrs. R.C.Hugman, Mrs Alice S.Shepperd, Mrs M.J.Muench, Mrs Margaret Sherrod, Mrs G.L.Blair, Mrs. Mark Brown (Colored)

Commissioner Lowther recommended that the following petitions be granted:
Dennis T.McNerny, for building permit.
Herren Auto Supply Co. for permit to install gasoline tank 502 Austin Street.

Commissioner Lowther introduced the following ordinance, which was read and adopted by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Bell, Coy, Lambert, Heuermann and Lowther.

241 AN ORDINANCE

-92

Appropriating \$129.00 out of the 1917 General Fund to pay Brownsville Fish Co. for 1720 lbs fish furnished Zoo at Brackenridge Park for month of November, 1917.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that the sum of One Hundred and Twenty Nine Dollars (\$129.00) or so much thereof as may be necessary, be ad is hereby appropriated out of the 1917 General Fund to pay Brownsville Fish Co. for 1720 lbs fish furnished Zoo at Brackenridge Park during month of November per itemized bill on file in office of City Auditor.

Mayor Bell submitted the report of the Committe appointed at a citizens meeting on November 21, 1917 for the purpose of assisting in enforcing the Law, which was ordered entered upon the minutes as follows:

To the Mayor and City Commission of the
City of San Antonio, Texas.

Gentlemen:

The undersigned Committee was appointed at a citizen's meeting on November 21st, 1917, for the purpose of assisting in enforcing the laws in this City against gambling

and the social evil, the appointment following a discussion of the situation in this City by George J. Anderson, Southwestern Director of the Law Enforcement Division of the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities, and others.

The Committee was given no instructions with reference to its work. A meeting was held on the following day for the purpose of organization. On November 23rd there was a meeting between the Committee, the Mayor and Commissioners (except Commissioner Lambert) Chief of Police Lancaster, and Lieutenant Miller, representing the War Department. The meeting was held in the Mayor's office and a general discussion of the situation was had, in which a few definite charges were made against members of the Police force and other definite charges made against the Military Police, but these matters were not of very recent origin.

The Committee requested full statements from Lieutenant Miller, the Chief of Police and the Police Commissioner as to the conditions as they arose and also requested Lieutenant Miller to furnish to the Committee specific facts showing the condition complained of. Members of the Committee made the statement that ~~xxxx~~ the Committee would insist on absolute enforcement of the law and would investigate the conditions existing at the time of their appointment and during the existence of the Committee, and take such action as in their judgement was necessary to remedy the conditions. Mr. Lowther and Mr. Lancaster both agreed that they would use every effort to enforce the law and they stated that the gambling houses had been notified to close the night before, but both admitted that no arrests had been made at the time. The Committee made it perfectly plain at that time that unless the law was enforced they would take action against those who failed to do so, regardless of whether they belonged to the Civil or Military authorities, and since that time the Committee has been seeking to gather information on which they could intelligently act and present the facts before officials, Civil and Military, and before the people of San Antonio and Bexar County.

CONDITIONS PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE

Prior to June 1917, there existed in San Antonio a restricted district. It was generally recognized, and in fact specifically recognized by the United States Government. Liquor licenses were issued by the Federal Government in that district to keepers of houses of prostitution, where no state licenses were issued, and where, under the law, the state licenses could not have been issued. Shortly prior to June, the City and County authorities had established a stockade for the treatment of diseases and the aggregation of those suffering therefrom. The Chamber of Commerce and the City officials were notified in June 1917, that the district must be abolished and the laws against gambling and prostitution enforced. There was a meeting of citizens in the office of L.J. Hart, now a member of this Committee, at which City and County officials attended, and in pursuance of that meeting and at its suggestion the City Commission passed a resolution instructing the Police Commissioner to strictly enforce the law against gambling and prostitution. The gambling houses were immediately closed, but the Committee regrets to say they were shortly thereafter opened and operated largely until the appointment of this Committee. There was little, if any work, done toward carrying out the resolution until the appointment of this Committee, and in the judgement of this Committee, the fault lay with the Police Department. Mr. Anderson was evidently under the impression that the Mayor had charge of the Police Department and overlooked the fact that this is a commission form of government in which the Police Commissioner is charged directly with the control of the Police Department, subject, however, to confirmation of the Commission.

EFFORTS OF THE COMMITTEE TO GET FACTS.

On November 26th, in their desire to secure information, the Secretary, at the request of the Committee, addressed a communication to General John W. Ruckman, as follows:

November 26, 1917

General John W. Ruckman,
Camp Travis, San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Sir: President of

The Committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce to co-operate with the city officials and military authorities in the enforcement of the law in this city against vice conditions, desires to be fully informed as to conditions as they arise. For that reason they have decided to request the Mayor to have the police department furnish reports as to their operations along this line, and would appreciate it if you would instruct those in charge of the campaign for the military authorities to furnish to me as secretary of the committee daily reports, showing the following facts:

1. The name of all parties arrested.
2. Charges against them.
3. Whether turned over to the Police Department the county authorities or the military authorities.
4. Reports as to general conditions, and any failure of local authorities to enforce the law.

These reports, of course, which are asked for, are only in reference to matters dealing with vice conditions, such as this committee is seeking to improve. The Committee would be glad to go over conditions here with you, or any one whom you select, at any time which might suit your convenience.

Thanking you in advance for a reply, I am,

Yours very truly,
Signed-Chester H. Terrell, Secretary.

The Secretary received a reply dated December 1st, 1917, as follows:

"HEADQUARTERS, SOUTHERN DEPARTMENT
FT. SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS
December 1, 1917.

To Chester H. Terrell,
Central Trust Company Bldg,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of November 26th, in reference to vice conditions in San Antonio and your Committee work therewith, I take pleasure in giving you any information that I can. The following are answers to your questions:

- 1- The Military Police arrest only soldiers.
- 2- Charges against civilians must be secured through the Police Department or the Department of Justice.
- 3- Report as to general conditions and failure of the local authorities to

enforce the law will be made from this office.

I shall be glad to meet the Committee at 10 A.M. Friday, December 7th, or at any other time convenient for them.

Very truly yours,
Signed- John W. Ruckman,
Major General, N.A.
Commanding.

The committee received no specific information from that source of any kind or character, except a hospital report last week, showing conditions at the hospital for the last two weeks, which was sent in reply to a letter from the Secretary requesting the report.

The Committee received from the Police Department daily reports dealing with the matters in which they were interested, which reports are on file.

On December 5, there was a meeting between the Committee and Lieutenant Miller, Mr. Jester of the United States Marshal's office and Mr. Needham of the Department of Justice. Lieutenant read extracts from his report which consisted of general statements, showing his views on the situation here. Mr. Jester and Mr. Needham gave the Committee certain specific information and Mr. Needham agreed to furnish to the Secretary a list of gambling houses and prostitutes which he stated were in San Antonio as shown by a report compiled several days before the Committee was appointed. One list showed there were in operation at that time about twenty eight gambling houses, the names of the proprietors appearing in the testimony which will be furnished by this Committee as an exhibit to this report, and the other list shows the names of sixty one women which it was stated were in San Antonio at that time and were following their illegal vocation, The Secretary requested Mr. Jester to check the list and find if they had been operating since the appointment of the Committee.

Lieutenant Miller at the Meeting of December 5, stated that he would wire to his Department to procure permission to furnish us the specific information in his possession, the Committee having informed him that specific information was necessary. The Secretary was instructed to wire to Attorney General Gregory, requesting him to give Mr. Jester instructions to furnish information to the Committee which telegram was sent, and with which request the Attorney General immediately replied.

On December there was meeting with General Ruckman and Colonel McFarland, in which the Committee requested that the Secretary be furnished with hospital reports and specific information as to violations of any law and failure of local officers to enforce the law. The Committee explained to General Ruckman and Col. McFarland that in order for them to take action, it was necessary to have specific information, and that they could not act on general statements and opinions.

A meeting was had on December 8, but Lieutenant Miller was not present and no specific information was secured.

The chairman sought to call a meeting about Tuesday of last week but owing to the duties of Mr. Jester, while Court was in session, and at his request and the request of Lieutenant Miller, the meeting was called for Friday, December 21, the proceedings of which meeting were taken down by a court reporter on that date and at an adjourned meeting on December 22.

Summary of the testimony taken December 21 & 22, 1917.

The Committee will not attempt to set out verbatim or in special detail any of the testimony but will present a summary of it under the following heads:

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The testimony shows that the Mayor has at all times sought to compel the enforcement of the laws against gambling and prostitution and has sought in every way to carry out the wishes of the War Department; that from the meeting in June until November 21 the Police Department in all its branches was derelict in its duty; that the only orders given by the Chief of Police were those given in response to direct instructions from the Mayor or Police Commissioner, and the orders were not followed up during that period in any manner, shape or form: that gambling was closed in June but was allowed to re-open in a short time and while some women were arrested, it is the opinion of the committee that the Police Department did not try to carry out the resolution of the Commission adopted in June 1917. That after the meeting of November 21, 1917, and the appointment of this Committee, that a vice squad, under Captain Harvey, was appointed, and has, in the opinion of the Committee, done excellent work, a summary of the work being shown in the record attached hereto. That at that time the Chief of Police, under instructions of the Mayor and the Commissioner, issued a formal order to enforce the laws but since that time, so far as the Committee is advised, has not followed up or done anything toward seeing that the instructions were carried out.

The Committee is of the further opinion that the Police Department in general has not actively co-operated with the vice squad under Captain Harvey at any time since the appointment of this Committee and the creation of the squad. The Committee is of the opinion that the Police Department is disorganized and inefficient.

Judge of the Corporation Court.

The Committee early in its deliberations stated to the City authorities, including the Mayor and the Police Commissioner, that the penalties imposed by the Judge of the Corporation Court were totally insufficient to prevent the continuation of the evils.

Although the Judge of the Corporation Court has been remonstrated with repeatedly by the Mayor, his average penalties now range from \$10 to \$25.00 with once in a while a fine of \$50.00 or \$100.00; that the maximum penalties provided by law have not and are not now being imposed, and the lack of adequate penalties not only does not discourage the commissions of the crimes, but discourages the Police Department, and encourages violators of the law.

Recommendations as to Police Department.

Under the charter of the City of San Antonio, the Police Commissioner is charged with the enforcement of the laws. That duty he cannot delegate and should not shirk. It is his duty to recommend the appointment of efficient men and recommend the discharge of inefficient ones. He should know conditions of the Police Department and the work done by the members of that department. That the department is inefficient and disorganized should be known to him and he should have already taken steps toward organizing it. The captains of police and the policemen themselves should enforce the law at all times and this committee is of the opinion that they have not done their full duty and that that fact should have been known to the Police Commissioner. This Committee recommends an entire reorganization of the Police Department, and that the City Commission make an

investigation of the records of the members thereof, and that those who have not enforced the law be immediately discharged and others appointed to take their places. In the event this reorganization cannot be immediately effected, the Committee recommends that the Mayor create a force of special police who will handle the situation.

Your committee further recommends the immediate suspension of the Chief of Police and that charges be filed against him, charging a failure to enforce the laws, or an inability to enforce the laws, or both, and that on a hearing he be removed from office. That the judge of the Corporation Court be immediately suspended, and that on a hearing he be removed from office because of a failure to impose penalties which would result in the enforcement of laws.

The Committee has no personal charges to make either against the Chief of Police or the Judge of the Corporation Court, further than that the Committee is satisfied that the Chief of Police is inefficient, and has taken no effective steps toward the enforcement of the law, and the carrying out of the orders of the City Commission. As to the Judge of the Corporation Court, the Committee simply says that if the fines imposed represent his views as to the enforcement of the law, such views are inimical to the best interests of San Antonio and necessitate a successor with different views. Such frivolous fines as he has imposed tend to encourage vice in the community.

The Committee further recommends as to the Police Department that those having beats be held responsible for conditions in their territory, and those who either do not know how to enforce the law or will not enforce it, be immediately discharged and others appointed. The Committee realizes that there are many good men on the Police force of San Antonio, and the Committee is of the opinion that the department can and should enforce the law. The Committee recommends that photographs be taken of all arrested, and that same be kept on file and furnished to other cantonment cities in Texas, and that those cities be requested to carry out the same policy.

The Committee some days ago recommended the appointment of six police women to be added to the vice squad and these will be appointed within the next few days, the Commission having already passed an ordinance authorizing their appointment. The Committee recommends that the vice squad be increased to fifteen members, and that they be furnished with two automobiles for the purpose of stopping vice in connection with service cars. The Committee recommends that charges be filed against men caught with prostitutes, and that they be punished in the City court, and that this recommendation shall include both soldiers and civilians. Inasmuch as there will be, in all probability be many thousand soldiers here for a long period, we believe that there should be organized a permanent Military Police force under an officer trained for such special work, for continued changes in its personell affect injuriously the efficiency of its work.

COUNTY AFFAIRS

The Committee has been furnished with no information as to any gambling or houses of prostitution existing outside of the City of San Antonio and in this county, except in one instance, which the Committee will have investigated.

At the request of the Committee County Judge Davis placed two additional motor officers on his force for the work outside of the City, making a total of four in all.

The Committee will request Judge Davis to put on three additional motor officers which should be sufficient to handle the situation in this county, with the assistance which can be given to them by the sheriff's department, and the sheriff has stated to us that he will give to the movement every assistance possible. In this connection the Committee desires to say that the testimony before it and the information which it has been able to gather otherwise, shows that in small towns outside of this county the conditions exist of which the War Department is complaining here, and respectfully calls same to their attention.

ALL NIGHT PASSES.

On November 27, the Committee submitted to General Ruckman and Col McFarland the suggestion that all night passes given twice each week to unmarried men be discontinued and that they be required to report at their quarters at some reasonable hour, and the suggestion was made that that hour be fixed at 11.30 or twelve oclock. Lieutenant Miller, we understand, has made the same recommendation. While these passes are not given for any specific purpose, the work of the Civil Authorities in remedying vice conditions will be and is now badly handicapped by this practice, and for that reason the Committee recommends that the City authorities take up the matter with the Military authorities and see if some agreement can be reached limiting passes to a reasonable hour.

CURFEW LAW

The Committee discussed the question of passing a curfew law for this city but upon investigation by the City Attorney's department, it was found that same would be ~~illegal~~ illegal and the plan was, therefore, abandoned.

SERVICE CARS

The City of San Antonio has in the last two weeks put into effect an ordinance regulating service cars, requiring licenses, and providing strict regulations governing their operation, and specific provisions against their use for immoral purposes. The furnishing of the automobiles to the vice squad heretofore recommended, will be of material assistance in solving the question in so far as service cars are concerned,

PUBLIC DANCES

The Committee is of the opinion that the public dance halls heretofore closed should be kept closed and no similar ones allowed to be operated. The Committee is of the further opinion that the practice of inviting nice girls of this city to dances with soldiers without an investigation of the character of the soldiers attending should be discontinued.

SALES OF LIQUOR TO SOLDIERS.

We have found no instance of the saloons being kept open after 9.30. We have found one instance of a saloon keeper selling direct to soldiers, and the saloon keeper has been arrested several times by the city police, and the committee is informed that no soldiers are now allowed to go in that saloon. There has been some bootlegging to soldiers, many of those guilty having been arrested and placed under bond, and some of them punished in the Federal Court. We are of the opinion that they also should be prosecuted in the state court for selling liquor without a license, for while this is a violation of the Federal laws, it is also a violation of the state laws, and the infliction of one punishment would not bar the infliction of the other. We believe whenever a soldier is found under the influence of liquor every effort should be made to find from whom he purchased it and punish the guilty parties. It is the information of the Committee that most of the bootlegging is done by women.

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

The undisputed testimony taken before this committee shows that since its appointment public gambling has been practically eliminated, that conditions with respect to the social evil have materially improved, that a vice squad has been organized and subsequently enlarged, the mayor having authorized the Police Commissioner to secure enough men to absolutely enforce the law and regardless of cost.

The Committee has been delayed in its work by a failure to secure specific information on which to base a report which was founded on facts. The only reports they received were from the Police Department, until the meeting of December 5th, and the information there presented was mostly gathered before their appointment, and it was not until December 21st, that specific information was given to this Committee, which in their judgement, was sufficient for the action which this committee now recommends.

The meeting of December 21st was called without reference to any action from Washington and the action here taken not only represents the results of that meeting, but of all the meetings of the Committee and the information which it has been able to obtain.

SEXUAL DISEASES.

In the forty-six thousand drafted troops brought here approximately five per cent were afflicted with venereal diseases. Whether the City or County authorities were advised of it until long afterwards. That the conditions have materially improved in this respect is shown by a report covering the last two weeks which is as follows:

WEEKLY REPORT OF VENEREAL DISEASES.

Week ending Dec. 8, 1917				Week ending Dec. 15, 1917			
Strength	New	Von	D. Percentage	Strength	New	Von	D. Percentage
Camp Stanley	4158	3	.072	4355	3		.068
Camp Travis	29970	47	.156	29635	22		.074
Kelly Field	15596	10	.064	21875	31		.141
Houston	58221	10	.191	5314	6		.112
	54945	70	.127	61179	62		.101

Charles Lynch

Colonel, Medical Corps, Department surgeon

To Mr. Chester H. Terrell,
Central Trust Bldg. San Antonio.
Hq. Sou. Dept.
Dec. 18, 1917
MMcF-gh."

Several months ago the Mayor requested the War Department to designate one of its medical advisers to assist the city of San Antonio in eradicating disease. Last week they acceded to his request and the work is now being organized and the Committee believes that it will be of much benefit to both soldiers and civilians, for the work will be educational, and in addition, free treatment will be provided.

CO-OPERATION

The Committee is of the opinion that there is a lack of co-operation between the Military Police, the Federal authorities, and the City Police and expresses the hope that in the future they will work more in harmony, which the committee deems to be of vital importance.

The Committee is of the further opinion that there should be more co-operation between the citizens and officials in the enforcement of the laws, and that those few local politicians who have been sending false reports to Washington as to conditions here, would be of much more benefit to the community if they would either tell the truth and co-operate with the authorities, or seek a different abode.

The Committee is of the opinion that the statement that there are many thousand of prostitutes here is too ridiculous to require a really serious answer. At no time has this committee ever been furnished with a list one fifth as big as the vice squad has arrested. The list of prostitutes furnished by the department of Justice contained fifty one names. We do not seek to conceal conditions which exist, but the committee is of the opinion that vice conditions here have been vastly exaggerated and that local politics has had a controlling hand in the matter.

To those who think conditions in San Antonio have been worse than any other large cities, they can find their complete answer in a comparison of the criminal records in the cities for the past few years. It is easy to make charges showing horrible conditions. All that it takes is a pencil and paper, and an elastic conscience.

Conditions should and will be improved here, but it does not help to improve them by seeking to injure the City, but the most good will be done by the furnishing of specific information by every citizen as to violation of the law, and if they are furnished either to this committee or to the local officials, we shall be glad to see that the conditions mentioned are remedied. To give an example of the false reports sent out from this city, a report was made last week to Mr. Fosdick, according to our information from Senator Sheppard, that conditions here in reference to gambling and prostitution were worse than ever before. We do not know from whence the information came, but certainly it came from no responsible source and the committee is of the opinion that conditions here have vastly improved within the last month, and the committee intends to see that they continue to improve if it is in their power to do so.

The Committee wishes to say that every request they have made of the Mayor and County Judge Davis has been complied with, and that they have fully co-operated with the Committee in all of its efforts. The report of this committee will not please some; the Committee has no expectation that it will do so. It has examined into this question without prejudice and this report represents the views of the Committee.

Although general charges have been made against the County officials, especially the sheriff, no specific information has been furnished us against him except that the laws against gambling and prostitution have not been enforced by him in the City of San Antonio. That it is his duty to enforce the law as well as other officials, no one can doubt.

This Committee will be glad to have any specific information dealing with the failure of any County officials to enforce the law and when we have the information deemed necessary the Committee will take such action as they believe to be proper.

The Committee desires to express its thanks to Lieutenant Miller for his co-operation, and interest in the work on which this Committee has been engaged.

The Committee recommends that owing to the exaggerated reports which have reached the War Department, that it be requested to designate a Board composed of citizens

and Military authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into such reports and the conditions existing here, not only in the past but at present.

Respectfully submitted,
R.J.Boyle Edwin Chamberlain
W.W.Collier L.J.Hart
Chester W.Terrell

SUPPLEMENT TO COMMITTEE REPORT.

The following report has just been received:

WEEKLY REPORT OF VENEREAL DISEASES			
Week ending December 22, 1917.			
Camp Stanley	Strength	Now Venereal	Percentage.
	5436	10	.1838
Camp Travis	29766	9	.030
Kelly Field	34067	29	.065
Ft. Sam Houston	5742	7	.1219
	75015	55	.75

To Mr. Chester H.Terrell, Central Trust Bldg.
San Antonio, Texas

Charles Lynch,
Colonel Medical Corps, Department Surgeon.

Hq. Sou. Dept.
Dec. 25, 1917

showing a marked decrease in the number of new diseases, there being only nine at Camp Travis, seven at Ft. Sam Houston, twenty nine at Kelly Field where there are thousands of new men coming in, and ten at camp Stanley.

We submit this as showing the latest report on such conditions and as a supplement to our main report.

Respectfully submitted,
Edwin Chamberlain,
Chairman.
L.J.Hart.
R.J.Boyle,
W.W.Collier
Chester H.Terrell.

Pursuant to the recommendations embodied in the above report, Commissioner Lowther moved that Fred H.Lancaster, Chief of Police, and J.Ed Wilkins, Judge of the Corporation Court, be suspended from duty pending the filing of specific charges against each of them, and until the conclusion of a hearing to be given them, answering such charge, which motion was carried by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Bell, Coy, Lambert, Heuermann and Lowther.

On motion, duly seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK.

APPROVED


MAYOR