

**PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2013
12:00 P.M.
MUNICIPAL PLAZA ROOM B**

Members Present: Chairman David Medina, *District 5*
Councilmember Leticia Ozuna, *District 3*
Councilmember Elisa Chan, *District 9*
Councilmember Carlton Soules, *District 10*

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Chris Hebner, *Assistant City Attorney*; James Kopp, *Assistant City Attorney*; Robert Reyna, *Assistant City Attorney*; Mary Hammer, *Interim Director, Office of Sustainability*; Jorge Perez, *Director, Building & Equipment Services*; Luis Borrero, *Assistant Director, Building & Equipment Services*; Charles Hood, *Fire Chief*; William McManus, *Police Chief*; Jeff Humphrey, *Deputy Chief of Police*; Anthony Treviño, *Deputy Chief of Police*; Jose Bañales, *Assistant Chief of Police*; Bob Stanton, *Assistant Chief of Police*; Steven Baum, *Assistant Director, Police Department*; Dennis Rosenberry, *Administrative Services Officer*; Denice Trevino, *Office of the City Clerk*

Call to order

Chairman D. Medina called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens to be Heard

Chairman D. Medina stated that the Citizens to be Heard would be called to speak following the discussion of Agenda Item 4.

2. Approval of Minutes of the January 11, 2013 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Chan moved to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2013 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Ozuna seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Briefing on Police and Fire Vehicle Replacement [Presented by Charles Hood, Fire Chief; William McManus, Chief of Police; Jorge Perez, Building and Equipment Services Director]

Chief Hood briefed the Committee on the 3-Alarm Fire that occurred on the 10,000 block of Sahara two days ago. He suggested that Councilmembers advocate for citizens displaced by fires in their district. He stated that he would work with Development Services to create a liaison with Councilmembers.

Councilmember Chan asked how City Council could improve their response for situations such as this and suggested creating an emergency fund.

At the request of the City Council, Chief Hood presented information on the existing Police and Fire Department Fleets. He outlined the life cycle and average age of vehicles in the existing fleet and outlined the future Fire Department Vehicle Replacements scheduled.

Councilmember Chan asked what funds were allocated for the purchase of recommended replacements to the fleet. Jorge Perez stated that an Equipment and Replacement Fund is set aside every year for these purchases. He added that departments deposit monies generated by monthly lease payments into this fund. He stated that Purchasing is provided with the required specifications for the vehicle order between one year and one and a half years in advance of the purchase. Councilmember Chan asked of the responsibility for submitting requests to the City Council for purchase of replacement vehicles. Mr. Perez replied that the Purchasing Department is responsible for submitting the request. He reviewed the purchasing process for vehicle replacements.

Councilmember D. Medina asked what determines the need for vehicle replacement. Mr. Perez replied that the Police and Fire Departments assess the fleet and advise the Building & Equipment Services Department of their replacement needs. Chief McManus reviewed the process utilized to determine the need for vehicle replacement. He stated that vehicles with an odometer reading of 70,000 miles or seven years old, qualify for replacement. Councilmember D. Medina asked how the vehicles are replaced at the time they are needed. Chief McManus stated that vehicles are procured from a pool of existing replacement vehicles housed at Brooks. He stated that Crown Victorias were no longer available for fleet replacement and existing vehicles would be replaced by Ford Explorers.

Councilmember Chan asked when all of the Crown Victorias would be replaced with Ford Explorers. Chief McManus replied that all Crown Victorias would be replaced within approximately six years. Councilmember Chan asked of the percent of the fleet that is available for replacement. Mr. Perez replied that there are 50 vehicles (7-8% of the fleet) available for replacement. He added that as part of the 2013 Budget, the number of available replacement vehicles will be reduced from 50 to 30.

4. Briefing on Proposed Changes to Chapter 33, Article I General Procedures, and Briefing and Action on Article V Limousine Services to Address Smart Phone Applications (Apps) [Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police]

Dennis Rosenberry presented an overview of the function of the Ground Transportation Office. He stated that the Ground Transportation Office provides administrative support to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) which reviews and recommends policy to the City Council through the Public Safety Council Committee. He reviewed the proposed changes to Chapter 33 which include changes in fees, permitting process, maximum vehicle age, fuel surcharge, company start-up requirements, and horse care standards for the carriage industry. He stated that staff, in consultation with the Transportation Advisory Board and industry stakeholders, will develop a proposal for recommendation to the Public Safety Council Committee in May. He added that the proposal will be presented to the City Council in June.

Mr. Rosenberry briefed the Committee on Smart Phone Applications for taxis and limousines. He stated that two companies in San Antonio have implemented the use of Smart Phone

Applications which are integrated with their existing dispatch system. He stated that the advantages to the consumer include being served by a permitted, inspected, insured, and metered taxicab service whose drivers are licensed, and have passed a background check. He stated that not all of the Smart Phone Applications focus on using existing dispatch systems and do not employ drivers. He indicated that there is a growing concern that rogue drivers utilizing the Smart Phone Applications will enter the market in San Antonio. He stated that these rogue drivers are not guaranteed to be licensed, insured, permitted, or subjected to a background check. He noted that they set their own fares and may refuse service. He added that at this time, there is no indication that rogue drivers exist in San Antonio. In summation, Mr. Rosenberry stated that revisions to Chapter 33 were proposed to define limousine and taxi cab service, strengthen penalties and enforcement language, set a minimum hourly limousine rate, and increase the limousine out-of-service rate age from 5 to 8 years. He added that the TAB approved the revisions on January 28, 2013.

5. Citizens to be Heard

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

George Mery, representing the limousine industry, expressed support for the revisions to Chapter 33. He expressed concern for the safety of tourists and residents, and protection of the limousine industry.

Alexel Harlim, representing Yellow Cab, expressed concern over the effect rogue drivers would have on the taxi cab industry.

John Bouloubasis expressed the need for protection of the taxi cab industry, limousine industry, and passenger safety. He requested support for the revisions to Chapter 33.

Councilmember Chan asked how establishing a minimum standard fare for the taxi cab and limousine industry relates to the rogue applications. Mr. Rosenberry stated that minimum standard fare rates assist in identifying taxi cab and limousine drivers operating in violation of Chapter 33.

Councilmember Ozuna cautioned that other industries (food, hotel, health, etc. services) may be affected in the same way in the future and for that reason, it is important to apply very exact definitions to the taxi cab and limousine industries.

Councilmember Soules asked for the specific language of the proposed changes to Chapter 33. Chief McManus stated that a draft will be issued to the Public Safety Council Committee this afternoon. Councilmember Soules recommended that the Chapter 33 revisions contain the most recent guidelines on background checks delivered by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

Councilmember Chan moved to go forward with the proposed changes and requested that staff provide the Committee with the proposed revision language, and background information and rationale for the requested revision in vehicle age. Councilmember Soules seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

4. Briefing on Patrol Resource Allocation Model (PRAM) [Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police]

Due to time constraints, Chief McManus stated that he would schedule one-on-one briefings with members of the Committee on said item.

5. Briefing and Action on Proposed Changes to Chapter 19 of the City Code relating to Neighborhood Electric Vehicles [Presented by Mary Hammer, Office of Sustainability Interim Director]

Mary Hammer briefed the Committee on Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (“NEV’s”) and the proposed action for use of said vehicles. Councilmember Soules expressed concern with allowing NEV’s to operate on arterial roads. Chief McManus stated that this concern would be addressed at the next meeting of the Public Safety Council Committee.

6. Consideration of items for future meetings

There were no items discussed.

7. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



*Denice Trevino
Office of the City Clerk*



David Medina, Chair