

**Public Safety Council Committee  
Minutes**

**Tuesday, September 8, 2009**

**12:30 PM**

**Municipal Plaza Room B**

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

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**Members Absent:** *None*

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**Staff Present:** Erik Walsh, *Assistant City Manager*; Sharon De La Garza, *Assistant City Manager*; Richard Varn, *Chief Information Officer*; William McManus, *Police Chief*; Charles Hood, *Fire Chief*; John Bull, *Municipal Court Presiding Judge*; Majed Al-Ghafry, *Public Works Director*; Nim Kidd, *District Fire Chief*; Kent Hickingbottom, *Public Works Assistant Director*; Harry Griffin, *Assistant Police Chief*; Jeff Humphrey, *Deputy Police Chief*; Mike Burns, *Deputy Police Chief*; Fred Garcia, *Municipal Court Clerk*; Mark Witherell, *Police Captain*; Joe Nino, *Deputy City Attorney*; Robert Reyna, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Others Present:** Mario Alejandro, *Grand Hyatt*; Bill Brendel, *San Antonio Hotel Association*; Curt Greer, *Drury Hotels*; Marco Barros, *Tourism Council*

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**Call to Order**

Chairman Clamp called the meeting to order.

**1. Citizens to be Heard**

There were no Citizens to be Heard.

At this time, the Committee addressed Item 3.

**3. Update on Downtown Cameras Pilot Program**

Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police

Chief McManus reported that eight surveillance cameras had been strategically placed in various hotspots downtown. He stated that the cameras were monitored by Bike Patrol Officers for 20 hours a day and the remaining 4 hours were monitored by Police Service Agents. He indicated that numerous arrests had been made since the program's inception. He stated that there were some technical issues with bandwidth with the cameras positioned in Travis Park and that the Department was working on enhancements to improve video quality. He requested the Pilot Program be continued for 90 days.

Chairman Clamp asked of expansion collaboration with the private sector. Marco Barros, Tourism Council, and Bill Brindell, Hotel Association, spoke in support of the Pilot Program. They cited the cost effectiveness of the cameras over physical patrol of the areas.

Erik Walsh stated that staff would confer with downtown stakeholders to develop boundaries of an agreement or a consensus for expansion of the program.

Chairman Clamp stated that he was looking forward to a 90 day update with options for consideration.

**2. Approval of minutes of the May 20, 2009 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting.**

Councilmember Lopez moved to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2009 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Report on the Burglary Vehicle Task Force**  
Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police

Captain Mark Witherell reported on vehicle burglaries during the Summer Tourist Season by the Burglary Vehicle Task Force. He stated that the Task Force was comprised of fourteen officers for a 60-day special assignment from June 15, 2009 to August 7, 2009. He noted that a three prong method of attack was utilized: Prevention; targeting high crime areas; and targeting high volume offenders.

Captain Wetherall stated that the Task Force partnered with the Tourism Council, Downtown Alliance, Hotel and Hospitality Industry, and Parking Lot Managers/Owners in utilizing their method of attack. He noted that a total of 202 persons were arrested during the 60-day assignment.

Councilmember Lopez asked of the Crime Commission. Chief McManus stated that a new idea had replaced the Crime Commission that had a broader focus and would cover everything within the criminal justice system. He noted that the concept was being reshaped and would be presented to the Committee at a later date.

Chairman Clamp expressed concern with the reception of stolen property by pawn shops. It was reported that the transactions of 90 percent of pawn shops in the City of San Antonio are tracked through a nation wide database called Leads-Online. It was noted that 68 detectives have access to the database to track stolen items nationwide.

**5. Staff Recommendation on Handheld Cell Phones in School Zones and New State Law**

Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police;  
Majed Al-Ghafry, Director of Public Works

Mr. Walsh reported that enforcement of the new state law effective September 1, 2009 that prohibits the use of a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle while in a school zone required signage posted at each school zone. He noted that 18 school zones had the required signage and that funding needed to be identified to install signs in the remaining school zones.

Mr. Walsh stated that staff recommendation was a one year implementation plan at a total cost of \$1.5 million contacted out to a third party.

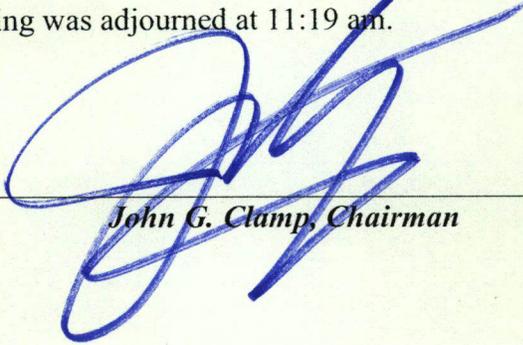
It was the consensus of the Committee to proceed with the three-year implementation plan. Staff will continue to develop said option and return to the Committee with an update.

#### **6. Consideration of items for future meetings**

- Update on Pawn Shops
- Crime Commission
- Monthly Municipal Court Update
- Fifty (50) New Police Officers
- Graffiti Ordinance
- Municipal Court Judge Vacancy Recommendation
- Public Safety Committee Meeting at EOC

#### **7. Adjournment**

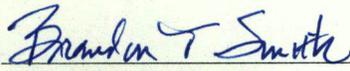
There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am.



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*John G. Clamp, Chairman*

*Respectfully Submitted,*



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*Brandon T. Smith*  
**Brandon T. Smith**  
*Office of the City Clerk*