

**PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2012

12:00 PM

MUNICIPAL PLAZA ROOM B

Members Present: Councilmember David Medina, Jr., *Chair, District 5*
Councilmember Leticia Ozuna, *District 3*
Councilmember Elisa Chan, *District 9*

Members Absent: Councilmember Carlton Soules, *District 10*

Staff Present: Erik Walsh, *Deputy City Manager*; William McManus, *Police Chief*; Anthony Trevino, *Deputy Police Chief*; Carl Wedige, *Deputy Fire Chief*; Earl Crayton, *Assistant Fire Chief*; Steven Baum, *Park Police Commander*; Steve Gaffigan, *Police Department Assistant Director*; Dennis Rosenberry, *Police Department*; James Glass, *Police Department*; Thomas Jenkins, *Police Department*; Jim Kipp, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Others Present: Rodney Hitzfelder, *SA Fire Museum*; Carl Resendez, *SA Fire Museum*; Dan Gustavo, *SA Fire Museum*; Lee Zalesky, *SA Fire Museum*; Rudolph Puzon, *SA Fire Museum*; Mario Arell, *SA Fire Museum*; David Perez, *SA Fire Museum*; Joel Berlanga, *SA Fire Museum*; Hector Cardenas, *SA Fire Museum*; Bob Heckman, *SA Fire Museum*; Alan Campbell, *SA Fire Museum*; James Campbell, *SA Fire Museum*; Khosrow Alizadeh, *Sun Taxi Service*; Jamshid Barisji, *Arrow Taxi*; Behzad Berisji, *Star Taxi*; Cruz Chavira, *Star Cab*; Arash Berenji, *Star Cab*; Mahmoud Ebadi, *Star Cab*; Martin Sanchez, *Star Cab*; Ever Bruzon, *Star Cab*; George Alva, *GSATC*; John Bouloubasis, *GSATC*; Robert Gonzales, *National Cab Service*; Fred Sheffiani, *Sun Taxi*; Scott Bailey

Call to Order

Chairman D. Medina called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens to be Heard

Cruz Chavira spoke in support of the component extending the vehicle life of taxicabs from six to eight years; however, he spoke in opposition to the component prohibiting wheelchair vehicles from accessing the airport. He asked the Committee to reconsider the airport clause.

John Bouloubasis, Yellow Taxicab, informed the Committee that the cost of a wheelchair accessible vehicle was twice the cost of a regular vehicle. He spoke in support of extending the vehicle life of a wheelchair accessible taxicab for an additional two years, allowing drivers the opportunity to recover the cost of retrofitting the vehicles.

Robert Gonzales, National Cab Service, expressed concern with the “payola” issue within the taxicab industry and spoke in support of addressing the issue in the proposed ordinance. He spoke of grandfathering existing taxicab drivers to continue working the airport with wheelchair accessible vehicles. He recommended allowing a percentage of wheelchair accessible vehicles in addition to grandfathering existing drivers.

Fred Shaffiani, Sun Taxicab, stated that he has driven a wheelchair accessible taxicab since 2009 and recently replaced the vehicle at a cost of \$38,690. He spoke in support of extending the vehicle life of taxicabs an additional two years to recover cost of the vehicle.

2. Approval of minutes of the May 23, 2012 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Chan moved to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2012 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Ozuna seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

At this time, the Committee addressed Item 4.

4. Briefing on Chapter 33 – Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police

Dennis Rosenberry provided an overview of the proposed revisions to Chapter 33, Article VIII Taxicab [Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAV)]. He spoke of the Ground Transportation Study citing the excessive amount of taxicabs at the airport and referenced a matrix noting the proposed revisions to the regulations. He stated that the cost to retrofit a vehicle for wheelchair access was \$12,000 to \$15,000. He noted that the current ordinance allows only five years of service to recover costs. He added that stakeholders have requested staff to consider revisions to allow eight years of service to recover costs. He indicated that staff will revisit the airport operating permit issue, report to the Transportation Advisory Board in July, 2012 and to the Public Safety Council Committee in August, 2012 with final recommendations.

Chairman D. Medina thanked stakeholders for their input and stated that the Committee would take action on said item at the August Public Safety Council Committee Meeting.

Councilmember Chan concurred with Chairman D. Medina to address said item at the next Meeting. She requested that staff reevaluate the proposed revisions and the impact to the taxicab industry. She asked of the cause of the shortage of wheelchair accessible cabs.

Councilmember Ozuna concurred with Chairman D. Medina to postpone action on said item. She spoke of extending the WAV Lifespan to eight years and requested additional information. She also requested information regarding the 109 WAV Permit Cap and grandfathering.

Chairman D. Medina asked of the cost of the average taxicab. Mr. Bouloubasis responded that the cost of a Grand Marquis or Crown Victoria was \$16,000 to \$18,000 and that Dodge Vans were slightly higher. He noted that Houston has an eight-year WAV Life Expectancy and Austin's is 10 years.

Chairman D. Medina reiterated that the Committee would take action on said item at the August 2012 Committee Meeting.

3. Briefing and Possible Action on Fire Museum Society Lease Agreement
Presented by Charles Hood, Fire Chief

Fire Chief Charles Hood provided an overview of a one-year lease agreement between the City of San Antonio and the San Antonio Fire Museum Society. The lease agreement is for the building known as Fire Station #7 located at 604 Alamo Street and the first floor and basement of Old Fire Station #1 located at 801 E. Houston Street. He reported that the SA Fire Museum Society will utilize the space at Fire Station #1 to open the Fire Department Museum. Fire Station #7 will be used for reconstructing antique fire apparatus and collecting and storing antique fire items and historical records.

Carl Resendez provided a presentation of the architectural rendition of the proposed museum and the purpose and intent of the project. He stated that the museum would: 1) Create a legacy; 2) Preserve the culture of Firefighters; 3) Educate children; and 4) Honor those in public service.

Councilmember Chan moved to forward said item to the full Council for consideration. Councilmember Ozuna seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Consideration of items for future meetings

- ✚ Chapter 33, Article VIII
- ✚ Elder Care
- ✚ RMS Case Management

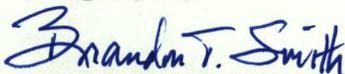
6. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.



David Medina, Jr., Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,



*Brandon T. Smith
Office of the City Clerk*