

**Public Safety Council Committee  
Minutes**

**Wednesday, September 8, 2010**

**12:00 p.m.**

**Plaza Room B**

**Members Present:** Councilmember John G. Clamp, *Chair, District 10*  
Councilmember Ivy R. Taylor, *District 2*  
Councilmember David Medina, Jr., *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*; T.C. Broadnax, *Assistant City Manager*; William McManus, *Police Chief*; Majed Al-Ghafry, *Public Works Director*; David Garza, *Housing & Neighborhood Services Director*; Marc Castro, *Interim Housing & Neighborhood Services Assistant Director*; David Martinez, *Deputy Fire Chief*; Carl Wedige, *Assistant Fire Chief*; Yvette Granato, *Assistant Fire Chief*; Mike Burns, *Deputy Police Chief*; Jeff Humphrey, *Deputy Police Chief*; Dennis Rosenberry, *Police Department*; Joe Nino, *Deputy City Attorney*; Ray Rodriguez, *Assistant City Attorney*; Samuel Garcia, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Others Present:** Chris Steele, *SA Professional Fire Fighters Association*; Eric Wilhite, *Texas Towing*

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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 6.

**6. Update on Cell Phone Signs in School Zones**

Presented by Majed Al-Ghafry, Public Works Director

Majed Al-Ghafry reported that that 230 of 340 Cell Phone Signs had been installed in school zones. He stated that installation process was in phase three of four; on schedule; and potentially under budget.

Councilmember Lopez requested that staff explore options to have School Districts place cell phone signs in their parking lots. Mr. Al-Ghafry replied that staff had conferred with schools regarding sign installation on campus. Erik Walsh stated that Public Works and Police Departments were providing updates to the School Districts and could engage them regarding on-campus sign installation through that effort.

Councilmember Medina recommended a presentation of the cell phone ban at the large PTA meetings usually scheduled at the beginning of the school year. Mr. Al-Ghafry indicated that Public Works and Police Departments were coordinating efforts for an official outreach program at the completion of the sign installation and world work to include said mentioned meeting in that effort.

**2. Approval of minutes of the August 24, 2010 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting**

Councilmember Medina moved to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2010 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Lopez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. CCR (D 9 & 10) - Requesting review the exceptions with the Peddlers/Solicitors Ordinance and prohibit placement of door hangers or pamphlets**

Presented by David D. Garza, Housing & Neighborhood Services Director

David Garza reported that a general prohibition of door-to-door solicitation was unconstitutional and that to pass constitutional challenges, the ordinance must be narrowly tailored to serve governmental interest.

Erik Walsh stated that the proposed ordinance does not apply to any department, branch or agency of the federal, state, or municipal government, and any religious, political or charitable advertisements or handbills.

Chairman Clamp asked of the enforcement penalty. Chief William McManus replied that the penalty was a Class C Offense.

In response to Councilmember Medina, Mr. Garza responded that the posted "No Soliciting" sign must be 3" x 4". It was reported that placement of literature on or in mailboxes was a federal offense. Councilmember Medina requested information on exact placement of the sign, bilingual requirement, and accountability of contract or subcontracting firm.

Councilmember Taylor entered the meeting at this time.

Councilmember Lopez asked of guidelines for Home Owner Associations (HOA). It was reported that placement of a "No Soliciting" sign by an HOA was not enforceable and that enforcement was by individual placement only. Councilmember Lopez requested that staff explore guidelines that would address stalkers and criminal activity. Mr. Garza stated that staff would review and clarify points made by the Committee.

Councilmember Taylor expressed concern with attempting to address criminal activity through said effort. She stated that criminal issues could be addressed in other ways.

Chairman Clamp requested that staff explore additional information and provide recommendations at the next meeting.

#### **4. Update on Towing Service Contract**

Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police

Dennis Rosenberry provided statistics and history on the Towing Contractor Response Time Performance Rating. He reported that a total of 25,605 tows were completed between January 2010 and June 2010 with the following results:

- ✓ 476 response time violations (2% of all tows)
- ✓ Majority of violations occurred between 31-35 minutes
- ✓ 22% of violations were not appealed by contractors
- ✓ Ten approved for a thirty-one minute violation during the reporting time period

Mr. Rosenberry reported that during the month of June 2010, Assured, ATS, and Texas Towing maintained a successful Response Time Rating. He noted that Allied did not with an average rating of 97%. He added that staff was tabulating and finalizing appeals for the month of July 2010 and weekly reports for August 2010.

#### **5. Briefing on Growden Point Contract**

Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police

Mr. Walsh reported that the City Council awarded United Road Towing (URT) the Operation and Maintenance of the Growden Road Vehicle Storage Facility contract in March 2008. He stated that URT staff discovered that URT was operating their own towing company from the City's Growden Road Facility in May 2010. He noted that URT was directed to cease operations from the lot and have since complied with the directive. He indicated that URT has made a significant capital investment at the lot and has done a great job maintaining operation of the facility.

#### **7. Briefing on the Public Safety Performance Measures**

Presented by Erik Walsh, Assistant City Manager

Chief Carl Wedige provided an overview of Fire Department Performance Measures that included statistics regarding medical, fire, and structure responses. He cited the increase in EMS Units from FY 2007 to FY 2010 noting the addition of one EMS per year.

Chief McManus provided an overview of Police Department Response Times and reported that response times for the third quarter of the fiscal year were down from second quarter. He reported that the clearance rate for violent crimes was up from 38% to 42% and that the City had one of the highest homicide clearance rates in the country at 80%. He stated that the national average was approximately 60% and noted that the murder rate was down considerably from last year.

**Citizens to Be Heard**

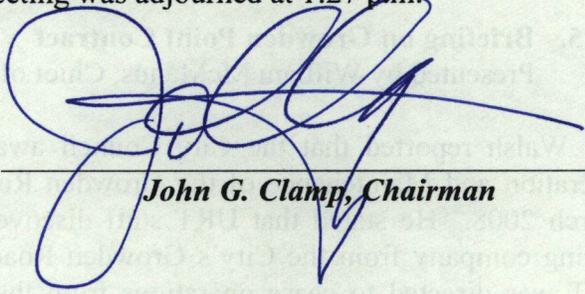
Chris Steele, San Antonio Professional Fire Fighters Association (SAPFFA), expressed concern with the quality of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Training provided by the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA). He informed the Committee that an EMS Workgroup concluded that an In-House Training Model was the best training option and was cost effective. He stated that a strategic plan and timeline had been developed. He cited issues regarding the Medical Director, leased space, and training equipment and expressed SAPFFA opposition to another two-year agreement with the (UTHSCSA). Erik Walsh stated that a Special Public Safety Council Committee Meeting would be scheduled to address said issue.

**8. Consideration of items for future meetings**

- ✓ Sexually Oriented Business CCR – October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting
- ✓ EMS Training Contract – Special Meeting
- ✓ Solicitors/Peddlers Ordinance – Next scheduled meeting

**9. Adjournment**

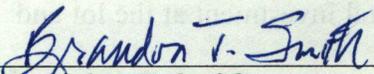
There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.



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**John G. Clamp, Chairman**

**Respectfully Submitted,**



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