

PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2, 2013

11:00 A.M.

MUNICIPAL PLAZA ROOM B

Members Present: Councilmember Carlton Soules, Chair, *District 10*
Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, *District 3*
Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, *District 5*
Councilmember Elisa Chan, *District 9*

Members Absent: Councilmember Cris Medina, *District 7*

Staff Present: Erik Walsh, *Deputy City Manager*; Enid Howard, *Assistant City Attorney*; William McManus, *Police Chief*; Anthony Trevino, *Deputy Police Chief*, Xavier Urritia, *Director, Parks and Recreation*; Steve Baum, *Assistant Director, SAPD*; Raymond Castro, *Park Police Chief*; Denice Trevino, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Lauren Lea, *WOAI-TV*; Mike Board, *WOAI-TV*

Call to order

Chairman Soules called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens to be Heard

There were no items addressed by citizens.

2. Approval of Minutes of the September 4, 2013 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Chan moved to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2013 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Chairman Soules noted that as a follow-up to last month's Meeting Agenda Fire Chief Hood provided Committee Members with a report on response times. He noted that in said report EMS Unit response times were separated from first responder response times. He indicated that the report revealed that response times inside of Loop 410 were less than eight minutes and outside Loop 410 the response times were 13 minutes or more in some instances and 11-13 minutes generally. He stated that the Committee would develop a Plan to address these inconsistencies.

3. Briefing on Safety and Security in City Parks [Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police]

Chief McManus reviewed the organization of the Park Police. He reported that the Park Police staff included 152 sworn personnel and five non-sworn personnel. He noted that the City was divided into 10 Patrol Districts. He noted that District Patrols had the largest portion of resources including All Terrain

Vehicles (ATV), Bikes, and Greenway Patrols in addition to the Core and Covert Units. He indicated that the Riverwalk had 24/7 coverage by Park Police to include Bicycle, Foot, and Riverboat Patrols. He reviewed the top five offenses for FY 2012 and FY 2013 year-to-date and reported that calls for service have increased significantly since FY 2012. He reviewed the Park Incident Statistics for FY 2012 and FY 2013. He reported that the Major Park Safety/Security Concerns that are the two most impactful on park visitors and user groups were burglary of vehicles and public lewdness/indecent exposure. He indicated that vehicle burglary was a Class B Misdemeanor and public lewdness was a Class C Misdemeanor. He noted that 20 part-time "Trail Steward" positions and two additional officers assigned to Covert Operations Detail would be added in FY 2014. He reported that the Trail Stewards would provide basic outreach and visitor assistance on the Greenway Trail System (Trail System) and Officers with the Covert Operations Detail would utilize recently acquired surveillance equipment to increase the arrest rate for various offenses. They will also implement a Public Safety Education Campaign which could help alleviate the number of incidents.

Chairman Soules asked of the incidents on the Trailway System and Trail Heads. Xavier Urritia replied that incidents occurred mainly on the Trail Heads and were predominately vehicle burglaries. Chairman Soules stated that there were two incidents dealing with sex offenders in Parks. He asked of the difficulties of policing sex offenders. Raymond Castro stated that the Park Police were contemplating utilizing plain-clothes officers on the Trails. He noted that incidents on the trails were reported very quickly.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the coordination between Park Police, San Antonio Police Department (SAPD), and Bexar County in policing the Mission Reach. Chief McManus stated that the Park Police and SAPD monitor the same radio channels and Parks were not excluded from the oversight of SAPD. Mr. Urritia reported that a Management Plan which addressed security was developed and approved by the City Council. He stated that the Park Police would police all Parks including the Mission Reach. He added that the Department of Parks and Recreation would meet regularly with the County and the National Park Service regarding assignment of jurisdictions in the Mission Reach. Chief McManus stated that Jurisdictional Boundaries would not hinder the different entities from providing assistance to each other.

Councilmember Gonzales asked how Park Police deal with people sleeping in Park Restrooms. Mr. Castro replied that Park Police Officers first check to see if the individual is injured or under the influence of alcohol. He noted that if they are injured; 911 would be called and if they were under the influence of alcohol, they would be charged with Public Intoxication. Councilmember Gonzales asked of the proper procedure for reporting individuals sleeping in Parks. Mr. Urritia stated that one should call the SAPD Non-Emergency Line or Park Police. Councilmember Gonzales asked if the performance of daily sweeps were an option. Mr. Urritia stated that he would coordinate directly with Councilmember Gonzales on same.

Councilmember Chan asked of the number of City Parks. Mr. Urritia replied that there were 238 City Parks. Councilmember Chan asked of the deployment of Officers and number of stations and substations. Mr. Castro replied that Officers were assigned by District. He noted that Park Police Headquarters was located in Hemisfair Park and Substations were located at Ira Lee, Leon Vista, Jack White, and Hardberger Areas. He stated that there was not a Substation for each District and each Officer had a different route. Councilmember Chan asked if Park Police were able to run a background check on individuals. Mr. Castro stated that Park Police had the same equipment and capabilities as the SAPD.

Chairman Soules asked if the Sex Offender Database was accessed when running a background check on an individual. Mr. Castro replied that the Sex Offender Database was part of the background check and

individuals on parole were identified as such. He stated that if an individual committed an offense and had a conviction for a Sex Offense; the Officer would contact said individual's Parole Officer. Chairman Soules asked how one would handle a person who is in the park who has had a past Sex Offense Conviction and is no longer on Parole. Mr. Castro stated that as long as said individual did not commit an offense; they would have full access to City Parks. Chairman Soules stated that the City had the ability to create Child Safety Zones around parks. He introduced a City Council Consideration Request (CCR) that would prohibit Sex Offenders from entering City Parks or residing within 1000 feet of said parks. He stated that this was implemented in several Municipalities around the State. He asked of the process for registering as a Sex Offender. Chief McManus stated that Sex Offenders are ordered to register themselves within a certain period of time following their conviction. Chairman Soules asked if Sex Offenders paid a fee for registration and proposed a fee to defray some of the costs generated by the Sex Offender Registry. He stated that he would review the CCR with Chief McManus.

Councilmember Chan asked if the budget for the Park Police was included in the SAPD Budget. Erik Walsh confirmed that it was.

No action was required for Item 3.

4. Consideration of items for future meetings

Chairman Soules stated that the creation of Child Safety Zones would be discussed in future meetings.

5. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.



Carlton Soules, Chair

Respectfully Submitted,



*Denice Treviño
Office of the City Clerk*