PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2014
11:00 A.M.
MUNICIPAL PLAZA ROOM B

Members Present:	Councilmember Cris Medina, Chair, *District 7* Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, *District 3* Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, *District 5* Councilmember Joe Krier, *District 9* Councilmember Mike Gallagher, *District 10*
Members Absent:	None.
Staff Present:	Erik Walsh, *Deputy City Manager;* William McManus, *Police Chief;* Charles Hood, *Fire Chief;* James Kopp, *Assistant City Attorney;* Joseph MacKay, *Deputy Chief of Police, SAPD;* Thomas Schlenker, *Director, Metro Health;* Vincent Nathan, *Assistant Director, Metro Health;* Steven Baum, *Assistant Director, SAPD; Denice* Trevino, *Office of the City Clerk*
Also Present:	None.

Call to order

Chairman Medina called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Minutes of the March 5, 2014 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Gallagher moved to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2014 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Citizens to be Heard

Ralph Velasquez stated that the future of the Local Taxi Cab Industry was at stake and would be adversely affected by the introduction of companies such as Uber and Lyft in the City of San Antonio. He noted that said companies were not allowed to operate in the Cities of Austin and Houston.

George Alva noted that he was the Vice President of the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) and stated that Uber and Lyft were operating illegally in the City of San Antonio. He requested that they be prohibited from operating.

Michael Guevara stated that he was the Owner and President of Excel Taxi and does not support allowing companies such as Uber and Lyft to operate within the City of San Antonio.

Alex Elhalim expressed concern that companies such as Uber and Lyft would threaten the livelihood of Local Taxi Cab Drivers.

Mario Robledo stated that Yellow Cab served all customers in all areas of town.

John Bouloubasis distributed information regarding companies such as Uber and Lyft. He stated that Uber and Lyft Vehicles for Hire would jeopardize Public Safety, as said companies did not have existing policies in place. He reviewed the definitions of Vehicles for Hire and Ride Shares and noted the differences.

David Mott spoke of the Transportational Redlining and discrimination by Uber and Lyft. He urged the Media to review Uber and Lyft's Driver's Insurance Coverage for commercial use.

Carol Evans thanked Chief McManus for issuing a Cease and Desist Letter to Uber and Lyft.

Robert Gonzales reviewed all of the tests that Local Taxi Cab Drivers must perform. He indicated that members of the Local Taxi Cab Industry have complied with the rules of Chapter 33. He stated that Uber and Lyft have raised their prices during major events in other cities.

Adrian Gonzalez stated that he took pride in his work and thanked Chief McManus for doing the right thing.

Wayne Peretz highlighted the investments made by Local Taxi Cab Drivers.

Marvin Peretz noted that Uber and Lyft have blatantly disregarded the existing Laws governing the Taxi Cab Industry in San Antonio.

Richard Moreno noted that Local Taxi Cab Drivers have adhered to the Law for 30 years. He asked that the City of San Antonio treat everyone equally under the Law.

Cruz Chavira noted that the City of San Antonio has invested heavily in the Hospitality Industry and urged the City Council to stand by the Local Taxi Cab Industry. He noted that use of new technology boasted by Lyft and Uber are currently in use by Local Taxi Cab Drivers.

Chris Johnson stated that Uber Black afforded luxury vehicles to riders and Uber X presented a new level of Ride Sharing Options. He indicated that drivers are subjected to a vigorous vetting process and were insured for $1 million in Commercial Insurance. He stated that Uber looked forward to establishing the right environment for its operations in San Antonio.

DeAnne Cuellar stated that she supports Ride Share Programs and people who are interested in performing more than one type of work to support themselves. She noted that Ride Share Programs were supported at the State and Federal Level.

Luke Holland stated that he represented the Leadership Organization of Professionals (LOOP). He indicated that LOOP was a community of young professional advocates in San Antonio interested in making San Antonio a premier location for innovative and talented young

professionals. He stated that the Board of LOOP would like to acknowledge the importance of transportation options in San Antonio in light of the Cease and Desist Letter issued by Chief McManus.

Thea Setterbo stated that the City of San Antonio needed the innovation of companies like Uber and Lyft to underscore the City's propensity for change.

George Mery stated that rules governing the Taxi Cab Industry were in place before Uber and Lyft introduced themselves into the market in San Antonio. He noted that he was proud of Chief McManus for enforcing said rules. He indicated that Uber and Lyft performed calculated invasions of the Taxi Cab Industry in Cities across the nation prior to their Premier Events.

Luis Carrion expressed concern for the safety of riders utilizing Uber and Lyft.

Item 4 was addressed at this time.

4. Briefing on Chapter 33 as it Relates to Transportation Network Companies
[Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police]

Chief McManus reported that the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) had received a number of complaints about Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) such as Uber and Lyft operating in San Antonio. He stated that said TNCs were not operating in compliance with City Code. He noted that in response, SAPD reviewed the actions of other cities in responding to similar complaints and followed the example set by one of San Antonio's Sister Cities to issue a Cease and Desist Letter to the TNCs.

Steven Baum stated that the SAPD Ground Transportation Unit (GTU) was charged with enforcement of Chapter 33 (Vehicles for Hire) of the City Code. He reported that Chapter 33 provided for the regulation of Ground Transportation Services within the City to protect public health and safety. He indicated that Ground Transportation Services included:

- Taxi Cabs
- Limousines
- Tour & Charter Buses
- Horse Carriages
- Pedi Cabs

He noted that a revision was made to Chapter 33 permitting Smart Phone Apps for Taxi Cabs and Limousines on March 21, 2013. He added that a comprehensive revision was made on August 1, 2013 to: 1) Change the vehicle age limit from 5 years to 8 years; 2) Inclusion of Horse Carriage Permitting and Operating Rules; 3) Authorization of the Fuel Surcharge Adjustment to be performed every 45 days to every six months; and 4) Inclusion of a consistent Fee Schedule. He reviewed the requirements established in Chapter 33. He stated that TNCs: 1) Provided On-Demand Transportation by Service Agreement between the Company, Driver, and Passenger; 2) Rates were based on time and distance; 3) Utilized Mobile Apps to connect Drivers with Passengers; and 4) Were commonly called Ridesharing Apps. He provided definitions of TNCs

and Ridesharing and reviewed Lyft's rates for San Antonio. He stated that the Cities of Austin and Houston had issued Cease and Desist Letters to TNCs while the City of Seattle and the California Public Utilities Commission revised their Ordinances or Laws to permit TNCs. He reported that the Cities of Nashville, Minneapolis, and Portland were in the process of reviewing their Ordinances for possible revision.

Chief McManus indicated that the actions of other cities in response to TNCs would be reviewed and that staff would meet with Stakeholders and the Transportation Advisory Board.

Councilmember Viagran asked if the TNCs had contacted SAPD prior to their introduction into the San Antonio Market on March 21, 2014. Chief McManus indicated that they had not. Councilmember Viagran asked for more details on the Vetting Process utilized by TNCs. Chief McManus stated that the initial ground rules for TNCs were established by the California Public Utilities Commission and more details would be forthcoming.

Councilmember Gonzales commended the Taxi Cab Industry for the services they provide.

Councilmember Gallagher thanked Chief McManus for SAPD's enforcement of Chapter 33.

Chairman Medina asked of the nature of the complaints received by SAPD regarding TNCs. Chief McManus replied that said complaints were made in response to the TNCs operation and non-compliance with the rules established in Chapter 33. Chairman Medina asked of the timeline for the recommendations made. Chief McManus stated that staff would brief the Committee on the status of recommendations and make a final recommendation to the Committee in June 2014. He added that SAPD would continue to enforce the rules and regulations of Chapter 33.

No action was required for Item 4.

Item 2 was addressed at this time.

2. Briefing on the Bureau of Justice Assistance Cure Violence Grant Program
[Presented by Dr. Thomas Schlenker Metro Health Director & William McManus, Chief of Police]

Dr. Thomas Schlenker indicated that the Cure Violence Program Grant (Program): 1) Was one of three federally endorsed and funded programs shown to reduce Violence; 2) Viewed violence as a disease; and 3) Employed a Medical Model used to control the spread of diseases. He reviewed the characteristics of Violence and Infectious Diseases and noted that Violence was a behavior learned from role models. He stated that the Program connects with Ex-Offenders committed to ending Violence in their hometown by: 1) Interrupting the transmission of Violence; 2) Identifying and changing the thinking of the highest potential transmitters; and 3) Changing group norms. He noted that the goal of the Program was to stop shootings and killings. He reviewed the roles of the SAPD and the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD). He indicated that once the Program was implemented, staff would receive 40 hours of training with additional training provided throughout the first year of the Program. He stated

that the Program Award was stated to be up to $2 million which was anticipated to cover the first 19 months of the Program. He noted that if successful, the City could apply for funding for a third year. He mentioned that once the Program ended, funding could be sought through additional grants to continue the Program. He indicated that the first steps would be to select a site, hire staff, and begin operations.

Councilmember Gallagher asked if the Focus Group could be expanded in the future to take advantage of the educational opportunities that the Program would afford. Dr. Schlenker replied that they could be expanded.

Councilmember Viagran moved to recommend and forward the acceptance of funds if awarded and the implementation of the Cure Violence Grant Program to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

5. Briefing on the San Antonio Police Department and the San Antonio Fire Department's Fiesta Efforts [Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police and Charles Hood, Fire Chief]

Chief McManus reviewed the Fiesta Events that the SAPD would participate in and mentioned that SAPD would partner with State and Federal Agencies. He described the Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Enforcement and Prevention Initiatives that would be applied during Fiesta. He reported that SAPD spent $1,513,426.00 on Overtime for Fiesta Related Events last year and noted that SAPD budgeted $1,534,065.00 for this year's events.

Erik Walsh stated that the roles of the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) during Fiesta were to: 1) Provide Emergency Medical Services; and 2) Perform Fire Prevention Inspections of Food Booths. He stated that the SAFD spent $93,434.00 on Fiesta Activities last year and expected to spend approximately $90,000.00 this year.

Councilmember Viagran asked of measures to address Pedestrian Safety during Fiesta Events. Chief McManus replied that if Officers observed someone who was putting themselves and others in danger, they would be approached and possibly issued a citation.

Councilmember Krier asked of the Overtime Rate for Police Officers during Fiesta Events. Chief McManus indicated that said Officers would be paid twice their existing Pay Rate. Councilmember Krier asked of Preventive Measures to reduce the threat of danger to the public. Chief McManus noted that Police Officers would be assigned to the most vulnerable locations.

No action was required for Item 5.

3. Briefing on the San Antonio Police Department's Community Policing Efforts and Programs [Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police]

Item 3 was not addressed.

Consideration of Items for Future Meetings

Said item was not addressed.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Cris Medina, Chair

Respectfully Submitted,

Denice F. Treviño
Office of the City Clerk