

**PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 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 Cris Medina, *District 7*
Councilmember Elisa Chan, *District 9*

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Erik Walsh, *Deputy City Manager*; John Dugan, *Director, Planning and Community Development*; Charles Hood, *Fire Chief*; Noel Horan, *Deputy Fire Chief*; Carl Wedige, *Deputy Fire Chief*; Chris Monestier, *Division Fire Chief*; Vance Meade, *Assistant Chief*; Denice Trevino, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: None

Call to order

Chairman Soules called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens to be Heard

Chairman Soules called upon the citizens registered to speak.

2. Approval of Minutes of the August 21, 2013 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2013 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Briefing on San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) Response Times [Presented by Charles Hood, Fire Chief]

Chairman Soules stated that during this meeting Chief Hood reported that a Five-Year Master Planning Document was created in 2000 and subsequently updated. He indicated that the analysis conducted during that process resulted in the addition of Fire Station Numbers 48, 49, and 51, in addition to 10 EMS Units. He acknowledged that said process continues to be used and refined based on enhanced technology. He reported that the evaluation of the SAFD's resource deployment is currently based on time, call volume, and population density. He added that said analysis is ongoing and utilized to make recommendations annually during the Budget Process. He discussed the Strategic Planning Process implemented in 2013, and how Medic Units were assigned to specific Fire Stations. He acknowledged that the goal of SAFD was to provide coverage to 90% of all city blocks within four minutes and 15 seconds.

Chief Hood reported that response times by other cities contain variations and different reporting methods making it difficult to make comparisons. He cited the factors affecting response time, such as hills, gated communities, and street connectivity. He elaborated on “bedroom communities” which are instances when citizens are not at home all day and return to their homes at night, also affecting response times. He referred to the Population Model San Antonio 2010 Census Blocks, the Density Model Fiscal Year 2013 Year to Date Medical & Non-Medical Responses, the Fiscal 2013 Year to Date Medical & Non-Medical responses per Computer-Aided Design (CAD) Engine Response Area, and the Fiscal 2013 Year to Date Average Response Times per CAD Engine Response Area Maps. He spoke about the average response times and the challenges with different areas of the city. He elaborated on Peak Units and the methodology behind these units.

Chairman Soules acknowledged the complexities involved with this issue. He requested that John Dugan, Director of Planning and Community Development, be included in the next discussion so that population densities could be discussed. In response to Chairman Soules, Chief Hood indicated that tourism, hotels and other events factored in to the density of a population. Chairman Soules commented on the impact of using 2010 Data to formulate a plan for the next four years since there is significant growth in the city. He cautioned on using static data, citing the growth occurring outside of Loop 410.

Chief Hood concurred with Chairman Soules and cited the challenge of adding more resources as growth continues. Chairman Soules requested that they look at specific EMS calls. Chief Hood stated that all First Responders have a Paramedic on board. He cited the importance of educating the public on SAFD’s Transport Capabilities. Chairman Soules commented that everyone should have an equal opportunity for response times.

Councilmember Chan commented that during redistricting, her district shrunk in geographic area, but her population density increased. She inquired of the use of the Peak Units, how they are being allocated, and the rationale behind it. She expressed her concern that citizens in her district did not have average or median response times. She highlighted the importance of basic city services, and having a good understanding of this issue.

Councilmember Gonzales commented on the excellent response time in her district.

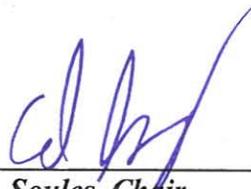
Councilmembers Viagran and Medina also concurred with the points brought up at the meeting and emphasized the importance of further discussion regarding this matter.

4. Consideration of items for future meetings

Erik Walsh, Deputy City Manager, stated that they would bring this issue up at the next meeting for more in-depth discussion.

5. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.



Carlton Soules, Chair

Respectfully Submitted,



*Denice Treviño
Office of the City Clerk*