

**PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 27, 2013
12:00 P.M.
MUNICIPAL PLAZA ROOM B**

Members Present: Chairman David Medina, *District 5*
Councilmember Leticia Ozuna, *District 3*
Councilmember Elisa Chan, *District 9*
Councilmember Carlton Soules, *District 10*

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Chris Hebner, *Assistant City Attorney*; Robert Reyna, *Assistant City Attorney*; Charles Hood, *Fire Chief*; William McManus, *Police Chief*; Jeff Humphrey, *Deputy Chief of Police*; Anthony Treviño, *Deputy Chief of Police*; Mary Hammer, *Interim Director, Office of Sustainability*; Jane Thomas, *Chair, Disability Access Advisory Committee*; Denice Treviño, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: None

Call to order

Chairman D. Medina called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens to be Heard

Chairman D. Medina called upon the Citizens to be Heard.

Michael Berrier, of Berrier Motors expressed support for the proposed changes to Chapter 19 of the City Code authorizing the operation of Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEVs).

Austin Evans stated that he is a retailer for NEVs in San Antonio and that NEVs would support the City's Green Initiative.

Jane Thomas noted that the Committee Members had received a copy of the Resolution passed by the Disability Access Advisory Committee in their packet. She expressed support for eliminating the current ban on NEVs.

2. Approval of Minutes of the February 27, 2013 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Chan moved to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2013 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Soules seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Item 5 was addressed at this time.

5. Briefing and Action on Proposed Changes to Chapter 19 of the City Code relating to Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV) [Presented by Mary Hammer, Office of Sustainability Interim Director]

Mary Hammer, Interim Director of the Office of Sustainability briefed the Committee on the proposed changes to Chapter 19 of the City Code authorizing the operation of NEVs on city streets and highways with a posted maximum speed limit of 35 miles per hour (MPH). She stated that the changes also authorize NEVs to cross streets with a posted minimum speed limit of 45 MPH. She stated that in 2008, the Texas Transportation Commission adopted administrative rules for titling, registration, and operating restrictions of NEVs. She stated that Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 551, defines NEVs as small, 4-wheeled electric vehicles that operate at low speeds. She added that NEVs must comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 500 for low speed vehicles. She listed the benefits of NEVs and reviewed their commercial and personal applications. She stated that on March 11, 2013, the City of San Antonio's Disability Access Advisory Committee passed a Resolution endorsing the elimination of the city's ban on NEVs. She added that no other municipalities in Texas have a ban on NEVs.

San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) Deputy Chief Jeff Humphrey stated that the SAPD reviewed concerns for NEV acceleration, safety, and operating speed. He stated that after careful consideration, the SAPD proposes a maximum posted speed limit of 35 MPH for NEVs. He added that the proposed speed limit of 35 MPH is consistent with the national average. He reported that under the proposal, approximately 63% of city streets and highways in San Antonio would be accessible to NEVs. He indicated that NEVs would reach a speed of 25 MPH in 4-5 seconds. He further stated that after a thorough review of the data to ensure public safety, the SAPD supports said initiative. He stated that NEVs must conform to federal motor safety standards for low speed vehicles and must be insured, titled, and registered. He noted that they must also comply with Federal Motor Carrier Standards. He added that upon approval by the City Council, the SAPD is prepared to provide officer training on operation of NEVs. The officer training video was presented to the Committee at this time.

Councilmember D. Medina acknowledged the benefits of NEVs but stressed that public safety was a top priority for the city. He expressed concern for NEVs travelling on major arteries such as Commerce and Buena Vista Streets. He asked of the requirements for operation of NEVs. Ms. Hammer replied that the requirements are the same as for any other vehicle. She added that there are currently 16 NEVs registered in Bexar County.

Councilmember Soules asked if accident data collected by the state distinguishes between NEVs and other vehicles. Deputy Chief Humphreys stated that he is not aware of any data collected separately for NEVs. Lt. Rich Whitehead stated that NEVs are assigned a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) which denotes the vehicle type. He added that little accident data for NEVs exists at this time and would not be adequate to assess NEV Safety. Councilmember Soules stated that this is a concern; especially if they become more prevalent in future years.

Councilmember Ozuna suggested using accident data of motorcycles, mopeds, bicycles, or non-traditional vehicles to assess and monitor the safety of NEVs. She stressed that public information on NEVs should be aimed at operators of all types of vehicles.

Councilmember Soules asked if NEVs operate under the same rules as those for motor vehicles. Deputy Chief Humphrey confirmed that they must abide by the same rules and in addition; they must display a slow moving vehicle emblem on the rear of the vehicle and maintain to the right

on two-lane roads and highways. Lieutenant Adolph Zuniga added that NEVs operating at a very slow speed on a single lane road may be cited for impeding traffic.

Councilmember Chan asked of the minimum posted speed limit for NEVs. Deputy Chief Humphrey replied that the minimum speed limit for NEVs would be set at 25 MPH or 10 MPH below the maximum posted speed limit.

Chief McManus stated that the SAPD and the Office of Sustainability would provide an update memo to the Committee addressing the issues of safety, outreach, and accident data. He added that this information would be provided to the Committee before it was submitted to the full City Council for consideration.

Councilmember Soules indicated that he supports the ordinance provided that NEV accident data is collected and maintained separately from those of other vehicles. Erik Walsh stated that said conditions would be incorporated into the ordinance and staff would provide an annual update to the Committee. Chief Hood noted that his department would collect and maintain separate accident data for NEVs.

Councilmember Chan moved to approve the proposed changes to Chapter 19 of the City Code authorizing the operation of NEVs on city roads and highways and moved said item to the full City Council. Councilmember Soules seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Item 3 was addressed at this time.

3. Briefing on Patrol Resource Allocation Model (PRAM) [Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police]

Deputy Chief Anthony Treviño reported that a 40% increase in the city's population has created an imbalance of personnel and workload amongst the existing six substations. He stated that the PRAM Model addresses the redistricting process; improving officer safety, balancing calls for service distribution, increasing efficiencies, and improving service and response times. He stated that two groups composed of a working group and an advisory group had been created to develop the PRAM Model. He listed the factors used to develop substation boundaries and personnel distribution. He added that said data, along with Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) Data, were used to develop new substation boundaries. He noted that any new substations would not be built for at least 5-6 years.

Councilmember Soules asked of the data set utilized to generate data for the PRAM. Deputy Chief Trevino replied that data from 2011 and 2012 were averaged for the PRAM.

Councilmember Chan moved to continue the SAPD briefing on PRAM at the next Committee meeting, to incorporate changes suggested by the Committee into the data presented. Councilmember Soules seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

4. Briefing on the San Antonio Fire Department Strategic Plan [Presented by Charles Hood, Fire Chief]

Chief Hood stated that an outside consultant had conducted a seminar for senior staff, appointed staff, and division heads. He stated that the Strategic Planning Steering Committee then

developed 12 goals and reviewed the mission, vision, and value statements. The 12 goals were presented to 1,200 department employees as part of the State of the Department Address and posted on the Department's SharePoint Site. He noted that input was gathered through an interactive survey. He stated that goal teams, comprised of 120-150 Department Employees, were charged with developing goals. The goal teams are in the process of developing the Strategic Plan. He added that the Strategic Plan would be presented to the full City Council at "B" Session on June 5, 2013. Chief Hood welcomed input from Home Owner Associations (HOAs) that would be incorporated into the Strategic Plan.

Councilmember D. Medina asked if the Fire Fighter's Union provided input to establish the goals. Chief Hood replied that Union Members and Management were involved in establishing the goals. He added that those involved in the development of goals did so voluntarily.

Councilmember Soules requested that the Committee review the Strategic Plan before it is presented to the full City Council at "B" Session on June 5, 2013. Chief Hood replied that the Strategic Plan would be presented to the Committee for review in May 2013. Councilmember Soules asked if input from HOAs would be incorporated into the Strategic Plan. Fire Chief Hood replied that it would. He also encouraged Councilmembers to provide input on the Strategic Plan.

Chief Hood added that Assistant Chief Chris Monestier, had established contact with the Chief of Staff for each Councilmember to assist in communication with Councilmembers.

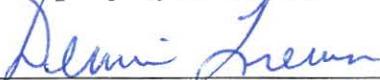
6. Consideration of items for future meetings

There were no items discussed.

7. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Denice Treviño
Office of the City Clerk



David Medina, Chair