

**Public Safety Council Committee
Minutes**

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

12:00 p.m.

Municipal 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*

Members Absent: *None*

Staff Present: Pat DiGiovanni, *Deputy City Manager*; Erik Walsh, *Assistant City Manager*; Charles Hood, *Fire Chief*; William McManus, *Police Chief*; David Garza, *Housing & Neighborhood Services Director*; Geraldine Garcia, *Assistant Police Chief*; Ramon Mendez, *Housing & Neighborhood Services Assistant Director*; Noel Horan, *Assistant Fire Chief*; Rodney Hitzfelder, *Deputy Fire Chief*; Mark Black, *District Fire Chief*; Gabe Trevino, *SAPD*; Imelda Muro, *SAPD*; Carol Castaneda, *SAPD*; Ray Rodriguez, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Others Present: Mitra Kermani, *Allied Towing*; Pasha Kermani, *Allied Towing*; Bobby Perez, *Shelton-Valadez*; Buck Benson, *PCPB*; Eric White, *Texas Towing*

Call to Order

Chairman Clamp called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens to be Heard

Citizens were acknowledged during corresponding item.

2. Approval of minutes of the November 18, 2009 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting.

Councilmember Medina moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2009 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Lopez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. CCR(D10) – Request for Review and Amendment of City Code Chapter 21, Article X- Graffiti and Review of Graffiti Strategic Plan

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

Ramon Mendez presented staff's recommendation to continue applying the ordinance to vacant commercial and residential properties only; and that Chapter 21, Article X, be amended solely to clarify the notice requirements under the new State Statute, as well as the requirement for consent by property owners authorizing "permission walls" on their property. It was further recommended that said item be referred back to the Governance Committee and subsequently brought forward for consideration by the entire City Council.

Councilmember Medina moved to have staff explore additional alternatives regarding: 1) Residents that opt not to abate graffiti; 2) Commercial properties; and 3) Residential properties. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Briefing on Public Safety High School

Presented by Charles Hood, Fire Chief; William McManus, Chief of Police

District Fire Chief Mark Black reported that the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD), San Antonio Police Department (SAPD), Alamo Community Colleges (ACC) and the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) were partnering in the development of a Public Safety High School for the 2010-2011 school year. He stated that Edison High School had been considered for the program and that students from throughout SAISD would be eligible for consideration. He noted that upon successful completion of the program, students would earn dual credit hours and be eligible to take state certification examinations.

Erik Walsh spoke of the gap in time between graduation and eligibility (age 19 - Fire Department and age 20 - Police Department). He stated that staff was exploring consideration of full time positions within the Departments for those students until the eligibility age had been reached. Mr. Walsh indicated that said item would be presented to the full Council in January, 2010.

5. Update on Towing Services Contract

Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police

Chief Geraldine Garcia reported that the compliance issue with West Zone contractor had been resolved and that the contractor was implementing plans as presented. She stated that the Towing Module implementation was on target for March/April, 2010 and that staff had met with Allied Towing in regard to the Assured Towing Driver that allowed an unlicensed driver to tow a vehicle. Chief Garcia indicated that the driver had been reported to the Texas Department of Licensing and Registration and placed on suspension. She noted that staff will meet with Associated Transportation Services (ATS) and Texas Towing regarding response time compliance issues.

Chairman Clamp requested that a Towing Services Contract update be provided at every Committee meeting.

Citizens To Be Heard

Buck Benson, representing Allied Towing, reported that an Assured Towing heavy duty tow-truck was over ten years old and had been utilized on at least two occasions since reinstatement. He noted that Assured also utilized an unlicensed Douglas Brothers truck for towing and that Allied Towing was informed by City Staff that they were unable to use trucks older than ten years. He added that Allied had purchased new trucks as a result.

Mitra Kermani, Allied Towing, stated that based on documentation from Assured Towing, they did not qualify for contract. She noted that open records documents reflected that Assured had not met response time compliance in eleven consecutive months. She requested that changes be made.

Pasha Kermani, Allied Towing, reported that an Assured Towing Driver had allowed an unlicensed driver to tow a vehicle and that Assured did not report impounded vehicles to the San Antonio Police Department.

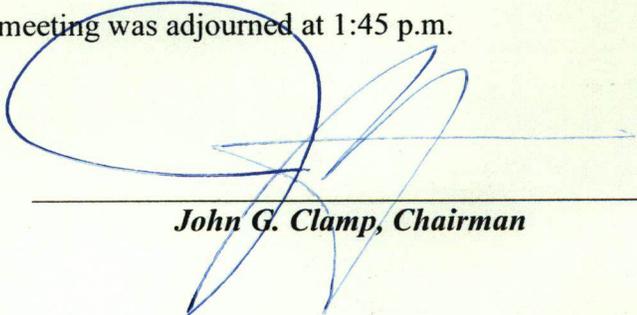
Bobby Perez, representing Texas Towing, stated that Texas Towing had a response time ratio of 97.2%. He noted that Texas Towing was in compliance and would address said issue with SAPD at the meeting with City Staff.

5. Consideration of items for future meetings

Chairman Clamp requested a Towing Services Contract update at each meeting. Walsh clarified that the Committee would be briefed individually on the Cell Phones in School Zones Options before presentation to the full Council.

6. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.



John G. Clamp, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandon T. Smith
Office of the City Clerk