

**Public Safety Council Committee
Minutes**

Wednesday, February 23, 2011

1:30 PM

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*

Members Absent: Councilmember Ray Lopez, *District 6*

Staff Present: Erik Walsh, *Assistant City Manager*; Sharon De La Garza, *Assistant City Manager*; William McManus, *Police Chief*; Majed Al-Ghafry, *Public Works Director*; Paula Stallcup, *Downtown Operations Director*; Kelly Rafferty, *Downtown Operations Assistant Director*; Dennis Rosenberry, *Police Department*; Savita Rai, *Assistant City Attorney*; Samuel Garcia, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Others Present: Mitsuko Ramos, *MRGRM*; John Bouloubasis, *Yellow-Cab*; Roman Martinez, *Yellow Cab*; Collette Keller, *National Cab*; Robert Gonzales, *National Cab*; Ali Nasserri, *San Antonio Taxis*; Alex Maghami, *Taxi Sun*; Miguel Guevara, *Excel Taxi*; Sa Phayvanh, *Armadillo Cab*; Luis Romero, *Star Cab*; Behzat Burboga, *United Cab*; Larry Ramirez, *Kwick Kab*; A.R. Velasquez, *San Antonio Craftsmen Assoc.*; Cassandra Ortiz, *Shelton & Valadez*;

At this time, the Committee addressed Item 3.

3. Cell Phone Signs in School Zones Update

Presented by Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Public Works Director

Majed Al-Ghafry reported that the installation of No Cell Phone Use in School Zone Signs had been completed ahead of schedule and under budget. He stated that installation had been completed over a period of ten months at a cost of approximately \$800,000 and that the project was currently in the inspection phase. He noted that the contract had been awarded at a cost of \$1,015,500 and yielded a savings of \$200,000. Sharon De La Garza indicated that the remaining funds would go back the Office of Budget and Management for reallocation as part of the Infrastructure Management Program (IMP).

Call to Order

Chairman Clamp called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens to be Heard

Citizens addressed the Committee during corresponding item.

2. Approval of minutes of the January 12, 2011 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Medina moved to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2011 Public Safety Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time, the Committee addressed Item 5.

5. Review of Private Parking Lots and Booting Regulations

Presented by Paula Stallcup, Downtown Operations Director

Paula Stallcup reported that the City of San Antonio has received an increasing number of complaints from private citizens regarding vehicle booting practices in privately owned parking lots in the downtown area. She stated that the City of San Antonio had the authority to determine whether more stringent regulations for private parking operators and private booting companies were necessary to deter fraudulent practices. She added that the cities of Houston and Dallas had passed ordinances to address similar complaints and concerns. She stated that staff recommended convening a stakeholder meeting of private parking lot operators within the next 45 days to discuss issues regarding booting practices and how other cities have addressed those concerns. She noted that staff would report back to the Committee with additional recommendations after meeting with stakeholders.

Chairman Clamp asked of the maximum amount to release a boot in Houston and Dallas. Ms. Stallcup responded that the City of Houston had a maximum release cost of \$125.00 and the City of Dallas had a maximum cost not to exceed \$500.00. Councilmember Medina spoke in support of further discussion regarding the issue.

Chairman Clamp requested that staff convene a meeting with stakeholders within 30 days and report back to the Committee in March. He expressed concern that no maximum fee had been established in the City of San Antonio.

4. Briefing on the Ground Transportation Study

Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police

Dennis Rosenberry reported that the Transportation Advisory Board had convened in January and agreed to increase the taxicab meter drop rate by \$1.00. He stated that staff's recommendation was to amend Chapter 33 to increase the taxicab meter drop rate by \$1.00; discount the \$5.00 downtown minimum fare; and revise the taxicab permit formula to include the number of ADA and Hybrid Taxicabs in the formula calculations.

Citizens To Be Heard

John Bouloubasis, President-Yellow Cab, spoke in support of an increase in the taxicab meter drop rate.

Robert Gonzales, National Cab Service, spoke in support of an increase to the taxicab meter drop rate.

Miguel Guevara, Excel Taxi Co., spoke in support of an increase to the taxicab meter drop rate.

Ralph Marquez spoke in support of an increase to the taxicab meter drop rate.

Alene Asala spoke in support of an increase to the taxicab meter drop rate and staff's recommendation.

Larry Ramirez, Kwick Kab, stated that spoke in opposition to the Ground Transportation Study.

Chairman Clamp thanked the Taxicab Industry for the service they provide to the City of San Antonio. He requested that staff review the presentation to the full Council, include additional history, and provide Industry recommendations as an alternative to staff's recommendations. Mr. Walsh indicated that SAPD would continue to work with the Taxicab Industry.

Councilmember Taylor moved to forward the Taxicab portion of the item to the full Council for consideration. Councilmember Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rosenberry provided information regarding the Horse-Drawn Carriage portion of the item and stated that the Study recommended a concessions contract to allow for additional horse-drawn carriage vendors. Chairperson Clamp asked of public safety issues. Chief McManus replied that he felt that additional horse-drawn carriages would add to downtown traffic congestion. Councilmember Taylor spoke of exploring additional permits to provide a more level field for the industry.

Mitsuko Ramos, MRGRM, addressed the Committee on behalf of Ray Dotson, owner of Alamo Stage Lines, and spoke in support of a competitive horse-drawn carriage permit process. She noted that she had conferred with the current horse-drawn carriage permit holders and they opposed a competitive permitting process.

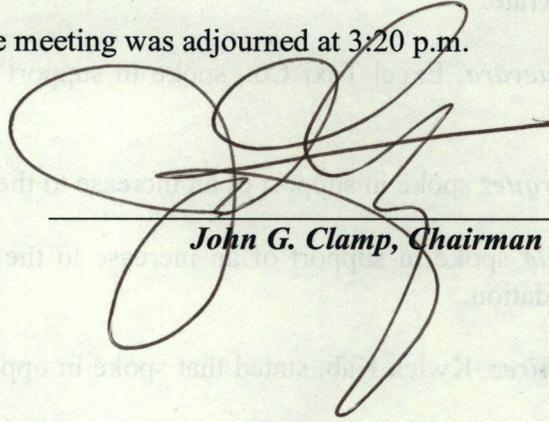
Councilmember Taylor moved that staff explore a competitive horse-drawn carriage permit process and report back to the Committee with recommendations. Councilmember Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Consideration of items for future meetings

Councilmember Medina requested an update on Graffiti.

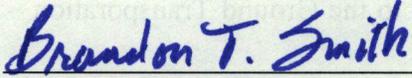
7. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.



John G. Clamp, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandon T. Smith
Office of the City Clerk