



# Agenda

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**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, June 17, 2008, 4:00 PM**  
**City Council Chambers**  
**200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501**

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of May 20, 2008 minutes
4. Old business:
  - A. NONE
5. New business:
  - A. Proposed ordinance creating article 24-4 SFCC 1987, The Santa Fe Traffic Operations Program or "STOP", regarding violations of the traffic code detected by a camera or speed device (Councilor Ronald Trujillo, Police Chief Eric Johnson)
  - B. Proposed ordinance amending section 24.1. 1987 regarding the City of Santa Fe Uniform Traffic Code; amending section 12-6-12.2 of the City of Santa Fe Uniform Traffic Code regarding operating a motor vehicle under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs and section 12-6-13.13 of the City of Santa Fe Uniform Traffic Code regarding mandatory seat belt use (Councilor Ronald Trujillo, Police Chief Eric Johnson)
  - C. Downtown Transit Center (Sheridan St. improvements)-schematic design (John Jarriah, Huitt Zollars, Inc.)
6. Matters from Municipal Court
  - A. Informational-Municipal Court Monthly Report- May 2008
7. Matters from Police Chief Eric Johnson
8. Matters from Fire Chief Chris Rivera
9. Matters from Committee Members
10. Communications from the Floor
11. Adjournment

**For information regarding the agenda, you can call Shannon Cantu at 955-5010. Interpreter for the hearing impaired is available through the City Clerk's Office upon five days notice. Please call 955-6521.**

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**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

JUNE 17, 2008

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**MINUTES OF THE**  
**CITY OF SANTA FE**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

**June 17, 2008**

A scheduled meeting of the City of Santa Fe Public Safety Committee was called to order by Chair Ronald Trujillo on this date at approximately 4:05 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**Roll Call Indicated the Presence of a Quorum as Follows:**

Councilor Ronald Trujillo, Chair  
Mr. Herb Harris, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Henry Valdez  
Dr. Mike Mier  
Dr. Nancy Owen-Lewis  
Mr. Pete Mizrahi

**Members Excused:**

Mr. Michael Bowen  
Mr. Frank Stuto

**Staff Present:**

Chief Eric Johnson, Santa Fe Police Department  
Deputy Chief Ben Montañño, Santa Fe Police Department  
Capt. Anthony Robbin, Santa Fe Police Department  
Fire Chief Chris Rivera, Santa Fe Fire Department  
Michelle Babcock, Santa Fe Police Department  
Jeanne Price, Legislative Liaison  
Jon Bulthuis, Director, Transit Division

**Others Present:**

Darren Kolack, Redflex  
John Jarriah Huitt Zollars Inc.  
Bertram Quintana  
Susan Traver  
Dave McQuarie  
Gabriel Taylor, stenographer

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Vice-Chair Harris moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Mizrahi seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.**

**Approval of May 20, 2008 Minutes:**

**Dr. Mier moved to approve the April 22, 2008 minutes. Mr. Mizrahi seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.**

**Old Business:**

**None**

**New Business:**

**A. Proposed Ordinance Creating Article 24-4 SFCC 1987, The Santa Fe Traffic Operations Program or "STOP," Regarding Traffic Violations Detected by a Camera or Speed Device (Councilor Ronald Trujillo, Police Chief Eric Johnson)**

Capt. Robbin said the Department has looked at red light cameras because the volume of traffic within the city limits has increased within the past five to ten years. He explained that technology advances have also increased the tools available to achieve more efficient traffic enforcement objectives. He said that speed detection devices assist police officers in enforcing red light speed laws at fixed intersection and other designated speed locations.

Capt. Robbin said that speed and angle collisions cause the majority of injury crashes. He added that there were 386 hit and run crashes and 427 injury crashes in 2007, and 1,634 non-injury crashes in 2007. He added that the summer months are the highest time frame for crashes. He explained that the four highest crash intersections are at Cerrillos Road and St. Michael's Drive, Cerrillos Road and St. Francis Drive, Cerrillos Roads and Richards Avenue, and Cerrillos Road and Zafrano Drive.

In November 2006, there were 318 red light left turn violations during a 16-hour period. 205 for westbound traffic on Cerrillos/ St. Michaels, 53 for Cerrillos/St. Francis, 46 for Cerrillos/Zafrano, and 14 for Cerrillos/Richards.

Capt. Robbin said that with the red light camera system in place, they believe that there would be between a 25% to 30% reduction in angle crashes, and 40% reduction in overall ticketable offenses.

Darren Kolack said that Redflex could make extensive gains in public safety, reducing injury accidents by 37%, and speeds by up to 10%. He added that Redflex could substantially decrease the city's exposure to liability. He said that they could guarantee that violators would pay 100% of the system. He explained that they could contractually guarantee cost neutrality. He said that they average 75% to 80% in community satisfaction.

Redflex has currently 1250 live systems in 217 cities nationwide. He said that 500,000 incidents are caught on photo enforcement systems per month, with 22,000 phone calls being fielded by the company's operators inquiring about the system. He said that local law enforcement and local community leaders should set up the enforcement program's goals. The ultimate goal of the system is to build compliance. He explained that the system addresses the problems with repeat offenders.

New Mexico's requirements have no prohibitions on the use of photo enforcement. Local ordinance needs to be drafted to govern the use of the photo enforcement systems.

Mr. Kolack explained that the system has the ability to enforce left-hand and right-hand turns, straight-throughs, and speed through any phase of the signal. He added that they system also includes mobile speed units, mid-block speed, tri-pod units, mobile stops, and rail enforcement.

Mr. Kolack said that it is up to the city to develop a program that fits the city's needs.

Mr. Kolack explained that the red-light phase of the signal is what activates the system. He added that it is up to the individual officers to decide whether enforcement should occur on a violation.

Mr. Kolack said that the system could overlay pictures. He explained that pictures get taken to the Police Department for decisions on fines and citations.

Capt. Robbin said that there are plates that need to be activated .2 feet before the intersection and go through the light while it is still red in order to get red light activation. He added that each camera has a speed function that measures speed of vehicles on the road.

Capt. Robbin explained that the violations are reported and uploaded by Redflex's camera system in real-time. All video and violation segments are broken up into 12 violation segments and are sent to the Police Department for review, in addition to being reviewed by the Redflex staff. All accepted violations are sent back to Redflex, and a violation is prepared and sent out to the violator. All violations are listed as civil infractions. The Police Department is responsible for the administration of the program.

The system requires no additional personnel for the administration of this program.

All funds collected from violations go back to the Police Department for public safety administration enforcement.

The hearing officers are appointed by the city manager. Each officer signs on to the Redflex server to review all the infractions from the previous day, and accepts or rejects the violations, at which time Redflex prepares the violations to be mailed out to the registered owner. If a registered owner was not the individual driving the vehicle when the violation occurred, they can contest the violation by requesting a hearing, and by nominating the individual who was driving the vehicle at the time of the violation.

The fines for drivers would be the same as if an officer were to stop a driver, in addition to a \$15 processing fee. He added that there are fine increases for second and third offenses.

Capt. Robbin said that all the money generated from the program would go back into the program's fund.

Mr. Valdez asked for comment from the city's attorney office. Ms. Price said that Mr. Katz reviewed the proposed ordinance. Mr. Valdez said that he has questions concerning the bill itself. He said that there are certain requirements in 66-7-103.1 that are made of municipalities if they choose to make use of the system that have not been incorporated in the ordinance.

Ms. Price said that she would double check this question concerning 66-7-103.1 with Mr. Katz.

Mr. Valdez said that there is nothing in the civil code that authorizes civil citations.

Mr. Valdez said that he was unclear what happens with citations that are issued to those drivers who are driving a vehicle, but do not own it. Capt. Robbin said that ultimately the registered owner of the vehicle is responsible for the citation, but can nominate a driver who was driving the vehicle at the time. Mr. Kolack said that issues like this would have to be addressed within the ordinance. He added that Albuquerque has a stipulation that the matter could be eventually turned over to the Collections Agency if there are unpaid violations.

Mr. Kolack said that the enforcement piece of the ordinance would have to be addressed by the City Attorney.

Mr. Valdez asked what the qualifications of the hearing officers would be. He also asked about the enforcement of speeding and the subsequent fines for speeding. He explained that burden of proof is preponderance.

Capt. Robbin said that there are exceptions that could be configured for 5 mph over the listed speed limit. He added that the table is set as the same speed schedule listed in the court schedule.

Mr. Valdez said that there should be specifications made in the ordinance concerning the speed schedule.

Chair Trujillo asked Capt. Robbin to check with Mr. Katz on these issues. He added that there should be some discussion on the installation of rumble strips at these intersections, as well as signage indicating the presence of photo enforcement at the intersection as well.

Dr. Mier asked how the license plate blockers are dealt with. Mr. Kolack said that the majority of these blockers don't work. He added that the Redflex has developed technology to deal with the plate blockers.

Dr. Mier asked what types developments are being considered for terms of speed enforcement. Capt. Robbin said that each camera has a speed component in it that continuously monitor speed on the road. He added that the speed vehicles are equipped with speed enforcement systems. He added that the Police Department hoped to install a speed enforcement unit.

Dr. Mier suggested an option of volunteering at local food banks for violators who are cited. He suggested tabling the item.

**Dr. Mier moved to Table Item A. Dr. Owen-Lewis seconded the motion.**

Chair Trujillo asked how this ordinance would affect teens going to Teen Court. Capt. Robbin said that these violations would not go to Teen Court. He added that there might be language included in the ordinance specifying how violations affect teens.

**Item A tabled until the next meeting.**

**B. Proposed Ordinance Amending Section 24.1.1987 Regarding the City of Santa Fe Uniform Traffic Code; amending section 12-6-12.2 of the City of Santa Fe Uniform Traffic Code regarding operating a motor vehicle under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs and section 12-6-13.13 of the City of Santa Fe Uniform Traffic Code regarding mandatory seat belt use (Councilor Ronald Trujillo, Police Chief Eric Johnson)**

Chief Johnson said that the changes in the city's Traffic ordinances are done to match what the state does every year.

**Dr. Mier moved to approve the Proposed Ordinance. Dr. Owen-Lewis seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.**

**C. Downtown Transit Center (Sheridan St. Improvements)-Schematic Design (John Jarriah, Huitt Zolars Inc.)**

Mr. Bulthuis said that there were a number of concerns by the HDRC. There is a revised design. He added that they are looking to receive conceptual design approval from the Public Safety Committee. He added that Sheridan Street serves as a major corridor to the Civic Center and the Plaza area.

Mr. Jarriah said that the goal of the project is to create a lengthy pedestrian space. He explained that they have looked at improvements and enhancements to the street. He said that the idea is to create a pedestrian space and a transit center along Sheridan Street. They are proposing to pull the transit shelters away from the O'Keeffe Museum. The idea would be to have the buses and the pedestrians share a raised open space. The paving along the street would be brick. There would be a lower light structure to light the pedestrian space. They are looking at several different types of lighting.

The paths would have various widths. The streets would still remain open to one-way traffic. Mr. Jarriah said that the pedestrian space would be level with the roadway.



Chair Trujillo asked where the vendors might be placed. Mr. Jarriah said that it would be difficult to have space for vendor booths. He added that the on-street parking would be eliminated because of the narrow width of right of way.

Chair Trujillo asked if there would be able to have large truck deliveries to the Museum. Chair Trujillo asked what the cost of replacing the brick if need be. Mr. Jarriah said that at this point, they are not totally certain what is below ground. He added that the storm sewers would be relocated.

**Dr. Mier moved to approve the concept of the Downtown Transit Center. Vice-Chair Harris seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.**

**Matters From the Municipal Court:**

**A. Informational-Municipal Court Monthly Report- May 2008**

Dr. Owen-Lewis asked Judge Yalman how the Court sentences practicing work for DWI offenses. Judge Yalman said that most DWI offenses are settled through plea agreements. She said that first time offenders are usually given a deferred sentence and put on probation for 364 days. She said that there is an ADE test required by the state that the court gives all persons convicted of a DWI offense. She added that the Court requires that the offenders go to Care Connection unless they are 24 years old or younger. Offenders younger than 24 years old are required to attend a group therapy program through St. Vincent's Hospital aimed at younger drivers. She explained that there are also community service sentences, in addition to an interlock sentence for one year.

Judge Yalman said that if an offender proposes a specific treatment, the Court would often go along with the proposed treatment. She said that second and third time offenders are often required to go to DWI/Drug Court. She said that second offenders have mandatory jail time that could have an alternate sentence of home detention or electronic monitoring. Third time offenders have a mandatory fine of \$999, and a mandatory jail term of 60 days. She said that the big issue for the Court is the time span between DWI offenses.

Dr. Owen-Lewis asked if there are any statistics on effectiveness of the drug programs. Judge Yalman said that she could supply the Committee members with the updated statistics.

Judge Yalman said that she has been pleased with the participation on the Drug Court. She said that the Drug Court does UA's and counseling. She said offenders participate in-group and individual counseling sessions.

Councilor Trujillo said that he hopes that the situation with repeat DWI offenders gets better. Judge Yalman said that New Mexico is making progress as a state. She said that there is a need for more longer in-patient programs.

Mr. Valdez said that as of 1993, penalties were increased for DWI offenders. He added that Judge Yalman has corrected the numerous issues with the process.

**Matters From Police Chief Eric Johnson:**

Chief Johnson said the renovation of the Main Police Station is underway.

Recruiting is coming along well. Another officer was hired yesterday, which brings the vacancies down to 5 positions. The Department is working to fill the vacancies by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Department received the grant for the in-car computers. All the patrol vehicles will be outfitted with the systems.

Chair Trujillo asked if the Police Department has budgeted for the increasing gas prices. Chief Johnson said with the gas prices changing, he assumed that the gas consumption would increase with the staffing numbers increasing. He added that right now, the Department is not going to change anything in their public safety routines and services.

**Matters From Fire Chief Chris Rivera:**

Chief Rivera said that The Fire Department is holding the Family Festival on Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. He said that the event is free for families. Several of the Department vehicles will be parked on the Plaza for kids to look at.

Chief Rivera said that Department has purchased two new fire trucks. He added that there have been six or seven requests for the vehicle. He said that the Department would provide several options for the vehicle.

Mr. Mizrahi asked if there were any recommendations from the Fire Department regarding a fireworks ban. Chief Rivera said that they are still considering if there should be a ban.

**Matters from Committee Members:**

Mr. Mizrahi said that the New Mexican Street vendor on St. Michael's Drive is in a dangerous position. Chief Johnson said that he would address the issue with the New Mexican.

Chair Trujillo said that he has received several calls about Franklin Miles Park. Chief Johnson said that the biggest issue at the Park is the traffic. He said that the issue that the stationed officers were having dealt with traffic congestion. He explained that the Police Department would continue to monitor the situation.

Vice-Chair Harris asked if there was someone who could deal with the cable companies that are stringing their lines in the streets. Chair Trujillo said that he would check on this item with Robert Romero.

**Communications From The Floor:**

Dr. Mier said that there are some safety issues with the free food program at Ragel Park.

Bertram Quintana said that every third Sunday, the program is feeding between 200 and 250 people on the third Sunday each month. He added that there is only one entrance at Ashbaugh Park. He said that the second issue is there is a police officer that is stationed at the park, who has suggested addressing the Public Safety Committee with this concern. Mr. Quintana said that one option would be to move the food operation to the back of the park. He added that this is a beneficial service for homeless individuals especially during the winter months.

Dr. Mier said that Mr. Quintana said that people are fed at the park every Sunday. He added that it is a tremendous service. He added that there are major issues of concern though.

Susan Traver said that the important thing is to keep in contact with all the churches.

Chair Trujillo said that the Public Works Department, the City Manager, and the Police Department could be involved in coming up with a solution for the program.

Mr. Quintana said that he would be willing to work with some type of Committee on these issues facing the program.

Dr. Mier asked if someone from the Police Department could organize the meeting. Chief Johnson requested that Mr. Quintana contact Ms. Cantu to set up a meeting.

Chief Rivera said that the Fire Department was approved to build a fire station at the front part of the Park. He said that the construction should start within the next two months. He added that in the meantime, the Fire Station parking lot could be made available for the people involved in the program.

Chief Johnson said that there could be close patrols of the park area. He added that the officer was stationed at the park because of existing problems at the Park.

Dave McQuarie said that there are numerous complaints about the used car dealerships along Cerrillos Road parking their cars so that they block the sidewalks. Chief Johnson said that Capt. Andrew Leyba has talked to the car dealerships along Cerrillos Road about blocking the sidewalks.

**Adjournment:**

Its business being completed, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

**Approved by**

**Councilor Ronald Trujillo, Chair**

**Submitted by**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabriel Taylor', written in a cursive style.

**Gabriel Taylor, Stenographer**