



Agenda

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, December 18, 2007, 4:00 PM
City Council Chambers
200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of November 13, 2007 minutes
4. New Business:
 - A. Update on Sobering Center, (Mary Justice, Program Director, CARE Connection)
 - B. Proposed resolution directing staff to map GPS coordinates onto the City's Recreational Land Maps, (Councilor Heldmeyer, GIS Manager Denise Vigil)
 - C. Discussion regarding the safety implications of the new bike lanes that are between traffic lanes and turning lanes, (Engineering Division Director Chris Ortega)
5. Matters from Municipal Court
6. Matters from Fire Chief Chris Rivera
7. Matters from Police Chief Eric Johnson
8. Matters from Committee Members
9. Communications from the Floor
10. Adjournment

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CITY OF SANTA FE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 18, 2007

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MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF SANTA FE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Santa Fe, New Mexico

December 18, 2007

A scheduled meeting of the City of Santa Fe Public Safety Committee was called to order by Chair Heldmeyer on this date at approximately 4:00 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 Dr. Karen Heldmeyer, Chair
Mr. Herb Harris, Vice-Chair
Dr. Nancy Owen-Lewis
Mr. Frank Stuto
Mr. Pete Mizrahi

Members Excused:

Dr. Mike Mier
Mr. Henry Valdez
Mr. Michael Bowen

Staff Present:

Chief Eric Johnson, Santa Fe Police Department
Deputy Chief Ben Montañño, Santa Fe Police Department
Deputy Chief Ted Bolleter, Santa Fe Fire Department
Michelle Babcock, Santa Fe Police Department
Chris Ortega, Director, Engineering Division

Others Present:

Richard Lucero, Center Manager, CARE Connection
Denise Vigil, GIS Manager
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 November 13, 2007 Minutes:

Vice-Chair Harris moved to approve the November 13, 2007 minutes as amended. Mr. Mizrahi seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

New Business:

A. Update on Sobering Center- Richard Lucero, Center Manager, CARE Connection

There have been 663 intakes since the Sobering Center opened on November 27, 2006.

Mr. Lucero explained that operations at the Sobering Center did not begin until the first week of January 2007 because of construction issues that arose.

At the Sobering Center, men account for 530 of the intakes, women account for 131 of intakes, and there were an additional two trans-gender clients.

243 of the 663 intakes at the Center are repeat clients.

The Center has a total of 439 clients. Mr. Lucero explained that the Center is currently initiating a new online data system, and for this reason, some of the updated current facts regarding the Center are not available.

Of the 439 clients at the Center, 333 are male, 104 are female, and there are two trans-gender clients.

Mr. Lucero explained that 45 hours is the average length of stay for any client at the Sobering Center.

The Sobering Center staff is working to get clients into a continued motive of care. He added that there is a problem getting them into residential services because of the waiting list that residential services currently has.

47% of the case management reviewed clients unseen by the case manager are reported report as homeless.

Thirteen Sobering Center clients sought shelter at St. Elizabeth's Shelter.

Mr. Lucero explained that 159 Sobering Center clients were assessed by Care Connection Assessment Center. Fifteen Sobering Center clients received sentences at St. Vincent's de Paul. He added that five clients have been admitted into a sobering program in Espanola.

Mr. Lucero thanked Chief Johnson for the work of the Police Department. In addition, he thanked Terri Rodriguez.

The Center is funded through the DWI detox grant funds, approximately \$300,000. The Center also receives MOA grant money, approximately \$400,000, for a total budget of \$700,000.

The Sobering Center currently has 15 staff members. Intakes are done on a 24/7 basis. The Center has a case manager that initiates services with clients and works with them to explore the options of their individual situations.

The Sobering Center Advisory Committee reported that there has been an improvement in what the intent of the Sobering Center was established to do. There have been substantially less PC's reported.

Mr. Lucero said that St. Vincent's Hospital Emergency room has also acknowledged that the Sobering Center has helped in the work of the triage unit staff.

Mr. Lucero said that that the Police Department has reported to the Sobering Center staff that they have seen benefits of the Center.

Mr. Lucero said that the Center could take ten men, and five women at one time. He added that on average there are eight men and two women per week at the Sobering Center. Mr. Lucero said that the Center is working on prompting a longer contemplative stay with their clients to address longer term problems, once the clients are over the physical stress but may be still experiencing mental stresses.

Dr. Owen-Lewis asked where the referrals come from. Mr. Lucero said that the referrals typically come from EMS and the Police Department. He added that they are also receiving referrals from the Indian Hospital. He said that Southwest Cares would begin referring clients to the Sobering Center.

Health Care for the Homeless also refers clients to the Sobering Center. Mr. Lucero explained that the Center staff also monitors the progress of their clients and be responsive as possible.

Chair Heldmeyer asked why not all people who come to the Sobering Center aren't receiving an assessment. Mr. Lucero explained that the Center is getting better at establishing more anchored stays of their clients. He explained that the assessment is not mandatory.

Chair Heldmeyer asked if the weekends are the crowded time for the Center, in terms of referrals. Mr. Lucero said that the majority of the Center's intakes occur on Wednesdays. He added that the statistics haven't proven yet that the weekends are the "crunch time."

Chair Heldmeyer asked if there is a clear policy in place at this time that the Center staff follows. Mr. Lucero said that for people that have a history with the Center, the staff would take them to St. Vincent's Hospital. For undocumented clients, the staff would call EMS. He added that every person who comes into the Sobering Center already has received medical clearance.

Chief Johnson said that for liability reasons, people would need medical clearance to enter the Sobering Center. He added that the officers don't have to wait for patients to receive medical clearance to be left at the Hospital's ER.

B. Proposed Resolution Directing Staff to Map GPS Coordinates onto the City's Recreational Land Maps- Denise Vigil, GIS Manager

Chair Heldmeyer explained that this presentation is an attempt to get various groups to discuss what the city needs in terms of mapping in recreational areas. She added that this proposed resolution was introduced several years ago, but was never voted on because there was a plan to go-ahead with mapping the GPS coordinates at some point in the future anyways. She explained that some of mapping process was done, but some of it has not been completed yet.

Ms. Vigil said that every trail, open space, and park has been included in the GIS. She said that there might be some inconsistencies with regard to the open space. She explained that all of the trails on the east side of the city are included in the GIS and the RECC currently has that data and refers to that map on 911 calls. She said that a map could be posted on their website. She said that the only issue with the GIS is getting plats for the open space. She said that the plats are currently included in the GIS, but she acknowledged that they might not be fully accurate.

Deputy Chief Bolleter said that there are handheld GPS units on all the ambulance units. He explained that they do have a way to locate the coordinates that are available. He said that mobile data terminals are being put on all the Fire Department trucks and ambulances, and therefore would have access to these coordinates.

Deputy Chief Bolleter said that the Department never gets coordinates on fires that are reported.

Ken Martinez said that units are typically directed with the best directions that are available to the located fire sites. He said that there is a Map Star feature in their department's software that also allows the RECC to map the sites.

Chair Heldmeyer asked if everyone has sufficient information about location within the Department. Chief Johnson said that the information that the Police Department receives is much like the Fire Department. He explained that at this point, the Department has not experienced a situation where they were not able to find a location.

Ms. Vigil said that the Internet mapping system would be available at all times.

Deputy Chief Bolleter said that he has discussed with Ms. Vigil about including a layer within the GIS interactive. He added that if the information has already been included in a grid, the Department would only need a browser. Ms. Vigil added that the open spaces have been mapped as well. She explained that the grid could be included in the GIS. She added that she would check with the vendor that supplies that mapping system to receive the times when the system is routinely down.

Chair Heldmeyer said that she would postpone a vote on this Resolution until more information is made available.

C. Discussion Regarding the Safety Implications of the New Bike Lanes That Are Between Traffic Lanes and Turn Lanes- Chris Ortega, Director, Engineering Division

Mr. Ortega said that there is an importance on having uniformity when establishing all traffic control devices. He added that there is a rule that the crossover of the lanes is always done in advance of the intersection.

Mr. Ortega said that there is a distinction with situations that present a “through right” positioning, where the bike lane is on the inside of the turn lane. He added that Cerrillos Road is more complicated in terms of the bus spaces that are included in the lanes.

Chair Heldmeyer said that she has heard numerous complaints on the section of Cordova Road that has been changed between Galisteo Street and St. Francis Drive. Mr. Ortega said that the intersection at Don Diego and Cordova continues to be confusing to drivers. Chair Heldmeyer said that the section of Cordova Road behind the Transportation Department should have more signage. Mr. Ortega said that staff could look at this intersection.

Mr. Mizrahi asked if the city paid to have the Siler Road to Cerrillos Road section repaved. He asked why the turn lanes were not re-striped during this project. Mr. Ortega said that there was a changeover of contractor and was a DOT funded decision to repave the through lanes, but not the turn lanes. Mr. Mizrahi said that the turn lane section looks unfinished.

Chair Heldmeyer said that there was an idea for the state to redo Cerrillos Road with proper drainage but that this project has been delayed because of a shortage of GRIP funds. The sections have been divided into three sub-sections. Mr. Ortega said that under GRIP II, there is another \$6.5 million for the next phase of the reconstruction project, which will continue from the point where the project was delayed to Camino Cielo. He added that the DOT stip, approximately \$5 million, would be used for the next piece of the reconstruction.

Matters From the Municipal Court:

Judge Yalman said that she would be happy to submit monthly Municipal Court reports on a regular basis to the Committee. She explained that there have been numerous irate citizens regarding license suspension notices from the Motor Vehicle Division this month. She added that there have been approximately 20 suspension incidents reported per day. She said that her staff had a meeting with the Motor Vehicle Division last week. She explained that there were numerous clearances that didn't get properly registered in the MVD's computer system.

Judge Yalman said that people who receive suspension notices should go first to the Motor Vehicle Division offices to address the matter. She said that it was helpful to have the meeting with the Court and the Motor Vehicle Division.

Chair Heldmeyer asked how the video arraignments are working. Judge Yalman said that the arraignments are working well. She said that someone from the Municipal Court is keeping track of the paperwork at the jail.

Chief Johnson said that the arraignments are going well, and are saving the Department a lot of time.

Chair Heldmeyer asked how the Homeless Court is doing. Judge Yalman said that on the whole, it's working out well. She said that it's helpful to show that the homeless situation isn't completely hopeless. She felt that it is serving a real purpose.

Dr. Owen-Lewis asked if there is conviction data available. Judge Yalman said that most of the cases result in presented pleas.

Matters From Deputy Fire Chief Ted Bolleter:

Deputy Chief Bolleter explained that the Fire Department would have the normal staffing levels for the farolito walk on Christmas Eve. There will be the annual burn permit amnesty for the farolito walk as well.

The Department is running 9% over last year in call volume. He said that there would be a full report at the Committee meeting in January.

The County has remained flat in terms of calls.

Chair Heldmeyer asked if the percentage of fire calls to medical calls is shifting. Deputy Chief Bolleter said that the call levels have remained about the same.

Deputy Chief Bolleter distributed letters to the Committee members.

Matters From Police Chief Eric Johnson:

Chief Johnson explained that the Department's mobile command post has been set up at various locations around the city during the holiday season.

The Department will continue with the patrol operations during the next week. He added that there would be checkpoints set up during the New Year's holiday. He said that there has been a positive response from the shopping centers and the public in general.

Arrests are up with reported burglary incidents, and therefore the number of burglary crimes is dropping.

Chair Heldmeyer asked Chief Johnson if he would like to speak to the newspaper report on the two narcotics officers that were indicted. Chief Johnson said that the Department

is looking at how to best utilize its resources. He added that he has met with the deputy chiefs to discuss this matter in depth. Chief Johnson said that two more people have been added to the Narcotics Task Force.

Chief Johnson explained that Deputy Chief Montañño has been appointed as the Chair of the Region 3 Narcotics Task Force.

Chief Johnson said that the Department would look at adjusting its resources as the recruiting efforts continue.

Vice-Chair Harris asked if drug crimes are currently decreasing. Chief Johnson said that the numbers of drug investigations are increasing. There is a supervisor assigned to the Region Task Force as well. Deputy Chief Montañño said that the Task Force is watching these people closely. The people working on the Task Force are going through a well-organized field-training program.

The Department has purchased three new dogs to work with the narcotics.

Deputy Chief Montañño said that the region includes the first traditional district and Taos. He added there is involvement from every law enforcement agency and tribal entity in the four counties. He explained that the main “players” are the Santa Fe Police Department, The Santa Fe County Sheriff’s Department, and the New Mexico State Police. He said that they have also received promises from Los Alamos, several tribal entities, and Española.

Matters from Committee Members:

Mr. Mizrahi explained that the speed radar on Galisteo Street is not functioning. Chair Heldmeyer said that she would contact Robert Romero regarding the problem.

Chief Johnson said that another speed monitor was installed on the Old Taos Highway. He added that the traffic unit has been sent to the problem areas to monitor the speeding problems and run operations.

Chair Heldmeyer said that one possibility would be to install more signage-notifying drivers to decrease their speed.

Communications From The Floor:

None


Adjournment:

Its business being completed, the meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Approved by

Councilor Karen Heldmeyer, Chair

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabriel Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gabriel Taylor, Stenographer