



Councilmember Marni von Wilpert

City of San Diego • District 5

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 10, 2023

TO: Honorable Council President Sean Elo-Rivera

FROM: Councilmember Marni von Wilpert, Chair, Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT: 2023 Public Safety Committee Work Plan

I am honored to serve as the Chair of the City Council's Public Safety Committee, and I am pleased to share our Committee's 2023 Work Plan. I look forward to working with my fellow PS&LN Committee members and the public to move towards our shared goals of protecting our communities from wildfires, ensuring our first responders have the tools they need to perform their crucial jobs, increasing public trust with police, ensuring community equity, and prioritizing government accountability in the year ahead.

In consideration of Committee Member priorities for 2023, the Public Safety Committee will focus on the following areas:

Public Safety Personnel

Fire-Rescue and Police Recruitment and Retention, and Diverse Workforce

Ensuring our Police, Firefighters, and Lifeguards have adequate staffing and resources is essential to decrease emergency response times and ensure that those who protect and serve us are properly staffed and have the resources they need to keep us safe. Having diversity in our public safety institutions that aligns with the diversity of our community is also essential. Our City must continue to intentionally focus on diversity in recruiting and outreach programs in creative ways, such as the Fire-Rescue Department's successful Girls Empowerment Camp and Woman's Fire Prep Academy. The PS&LN Committee will request regular updates from the Fire-Rescue and Police Department on their current efforts to improve recruitment, retention, and diversity.

This Committee should also request to receive reports from the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief to learn more about their respective departments' training efforts to address implicit bias within our workforce.

Intergenerational Staff Development

Many public safety departments are experiencing high levels of turnover due to generation gaps in staffing. Unfortunately, many senior staff members are retiring and taking decades of lived experience with them. While typical retention factors such as cost of living and pay are a concern, the consistent revolving door of leadership is an issue. The Committee will receive updates from public safety departments on how entry-level staff are being trained and prepared

for senior leadership roles and how squad-based trainings are being instituted within departments.

San Diego Regional Public Safety Training Institute Update

Part of reimagining public safety is recruiting, training, and providing ongoing development for a diverse workforce. The San Diego Regional Public Safety Training Institute (SDRPSTI) at San Diego Miramar College is accredited by California Commission on Peace Officer standards and Training (POST) to provide police academies. Providing support to fund additional academies could assist the city in producing more recruits and recovering from staffing deficits. Furthermore, Miramar College is supportive of trainings that uphold diversity and inclusion. The Committee will request an update from SDTRI on the current needs that they have and funding there are applying to produce more academies.

Mental Health Support for Our First Responders

Our first responders work in crisis situations on a daily basis and ensuring access to mental health support services is essential. The Committee will bring updates from the Fire-Rescue and Police Departments' Wellness Units to better understand the current mental health programs available to our Police, Firefighters, and Lifeguards and discuss ways to improve and enhance the services being provided.

Advanced Lifeguard Academy and Lifeguard Plan Update

In 2014, the Lifeguard Division presented a Five-Year Plan that covered the need for additional lifeguards and funding for vessel replacements. It's projected that the Lifeguard Division will experience a 25% of full-time staff retiring in the next three to four years. The Committee will receive updates from the Lifeguard Division on their current staffing and operational needs in the face of the significant attrition that they face in the coming years.

Police

Transition to Independent Commission on Police Practices

With the approval of Measure B on November 3, 2020, voters approved the dissolution of the existing Community Review Board on Police Practices (CRB) and the establishment of a new Commission on Police Practices (Commission). The Committee will hold discussions on CPP implementation actions and will receive informational updates related to the seating of new commissioners and transition to a fully operational CPP.

Street Racing and Car Sideshow Enforcement Update

During the Covid-19 pandemic, illegal street racing and other illegal gatherings in which groups of drivers take over intersections, city streets, stretches of busy freeways and/or parking lots to perform tricks with their cars (aka "sideshows") significantly increased. In the fiscal year 2023 budget, the Council included additional funding for increased enforcement operations to address illegal street racing and car sideshows. The Committee will request an informational update on the current enforcement efforts and discuss future fund needs to prevent these dangerous activities.

Update from Racial Identity Profiling Advisory Board and Government Affairs on State Police Accountability Bills

The Racial Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) initiated a statewide board that seeks to eliminate racial and identity profiling and improve diversity and racial and identity sensitivity in law enforcement. The Committee will work with SDPD to bring forward progress reports to the Committee, including information about any racial bias complaints, the outcomes of such complaints, and any action taken by SDPD to mitigate racial biases. The Committee will also request an update from the RIPA Board on the 2023 RIPA Annual Report.

Monitoring of the Surveillance Ordinance and the Privacy Advisory Board

In 2022, the City Council approved the Surveillance Ordinance that established processes that encourage transparency, accountability, public deliberation, and establishes rules for the acquisition and use of surveillance technology. The Public Safety Committee will receive updates on the Privacy Advisory Board's findings, results, and efficacy of the technology governed by the surveillance ordinance.

Reduction of Social Service Contacts Conducted by San Diego Police Officers

The core message the City hears from community groups pushing for reform is that individuals want fewer unnecessary contacts from police officers, particularly in ways that reflect outdated thinking about criminal justice. Homelessness, drug addiction, mental health episodes, and interactions with youth require proper training and precise monitoring so that the appropriate response and solution are applied every time. A specific example of where the City sees success in this arena is the use of officers being staffed with clinicians to the PERT and Mobile Crisis Support Teams. SDPD will provide updates to the Public Safety Committee on the feasibility of expanding these programs to ultimately reduce the number of social service contacts conducted by law enforcement.

Neighborhood Policing Division Update

Since its establishment in 2018, the Neighborhood Policing Division (NPD) has been responsible for coordinating the Homeless Outreach Team using the Progressive Enforcement Model. The Public Safety Committee will receive an update on the progress of NPD and the potential to return these services to their respective divisions to ensure quick and equitable response times.

Update should also include the progressive enforcement model and the associated processes on how SDPD directs individuals living in their cars to safe-parking lots.

Emergency Medical System

Falck Accountability

Falck has struggled to meet their contract requirements as the EMS provider for the City of San Diego. One year after Falck took over the City of San Diego's Ambulance contract, they have neither met the minimum staffing hours on the road nor the minimum staffing levels outlined in their contract. This is unacceptable, and the Public Safety Committee must receive updates from SDFD and Falck on steps being taken to ensure proper ambulance coverage across the City, as well as exploring a possible breach of contract due to consistent failure to meet obligated minimums. Despite fines and many updates at committee, Falck has not been able to remedy the continual breach. The Committee will continue to work with the Fire-Rescue Department to closely monitor Falck's staffing levels, receive performance updates, and discuss alternative solutions being evaluated by the department.

Emergency Medical and Mental Health Services

To continuously improve on the services we provide to our communities, the Committee will hold discussions with our Fire-Rescue Department about new and changing healthcare models. These discussions should include, but not be limited to, evaluating the opportunities that community paramedicine provides, and identifying new and innovative ways to work with our County partners to improve the public's access to mental health services.

Regular Update from Psychiatric Emergency Response Teams (PERT) and Mobile Crisis Response Teams (MCRT)

Our region faces a significant gap in mental health resources. The Committee will request updates from the County of San Diego's Psychiatric Emergency Response Team and the newly established Mobile Crisis Response Teams, which provide emergency assessments and referrals for individuals experiencing behavioral health crises. The Committee will also hear updates from the City Attorney's Conservator and Treatment Unit.

Opioids/Fentanyl

Fentanyl Crisis

The proliferation of fentanyl has resulted in countless deaths and violence across San Diego. Last year, the County of San Diego convened a Fentanyl Policy Roundtable to exchange ideas and coordinate action within our region. On November 29, 2022, Mayor Todd Gloria issued an Executive Order to combat the Fentanyl Crisis in San Diego. The Committee will receive updates on City department's implementation of the Mayor's executive order and will hold discussions with governmental agencies, healthcare industry experts, and non-profit partners to discuss potential solutions, opportunities to coordinate efforts, and raise awareness of this deadly crisis.

Opioid Settlement

The collateral consequences of the opioid epidemic have devastated families and communities across our region. Low-income communities have been especially devastated due to a lack of resources and access to health services to address addiction. The Committee will work with the Office of Government Affairs, the City Attorney's office, and the Office of the Independent Budget Analyst to discuss options for expending the approximately \$30 million in Opioid settlement funding that the City will receive. These discussions will also consider opportunities to coordinate with the County on their \$100 million Opioid Settlement Framework approved by the County Board of Supervisors.

Naloxone Accessibility

Naloxone, sold under the brand name Narcan, is a nasal spray that can rapidly reverse an opioid overdose. We are in the middle of the worst opioid drug abuse crisis in American history and people across the City of San Diego are dying too often because of drug overdoses directly related to the fentanyl crisis. The Committee will work with the Mayor's office and departments to hold discussions about ways to increase access to Narcan at City facilities.

Narcotics Investigations Related to Unsheltered Populations

Evidence highly suggests that narcotics sales (methamphetamine, fentanyl, and heroin) are increasing among the unsheltered population throughout the City of San Diego. Further, the various shelters operated by the City and our various contractors does not appear to be immune from this problem. The Public Safety committee should receive an informational update from SDPD on how they intend to protect vulnerable population from the proliferation of drugs and predatory drug dealers in our community, and the necessary state and federal resources needed to protect them.

Wildfire and Brush Management

Wildfire Prevention and Resiliency

As climate change-driven wildfires worsen each year, the City must work to prevent wildfires and ensure our City is prepared if another big fire like the 2003 Cedar Fire or 2007 Witch Creek fire were to occur. The Committee will invite regular updates from our Fire-Rescue and Police Departments, and local Fire Safety Councils to ensure we are ready in case of a future emergency.

Citygate: Standards of Response Coverage Report Update:

The City of San Diego retained Citygate Associates, LLC to perform a Standards of Response Coverage review for the Fire-Rescue Department. This study included reviewing the adequacy of the current fire station resource deployment system, the risks to be protected, and the emergency incident outcomes desired by the community. The Committee will receive an update on the implementation of the recommendations made in the report.

Brush Management and Abatement: The City’s brush management programs are essential public safety services that our residents rely on to protect their homes, businesses, and communities. It is imperative that proactive measures are taken to prevent future fires. The Committee will review current brush management policies and programs and discuss opportunities to equitably increase the maintenance and inspection of our open spaces, parks, and canyon land.

Gun Violence Prevention

Non-serialized “Ghost Gun” Enforcement Update: A “ghost gun” is a term for a homemade, personally manufactured, firearm that lacks commercial serial numbers and can easily become untraceable due to the lack of identifying markings. They contain the components of a nearly complete firearm and can be assembled at home, in minutes, into a fully functional weapon.

On June 11, 2021, the San Diego Police Department delivered a report detailing information gathered on “ghost guns,” reporting a detailed an alarming 169% increase in the use of “ghost guns” since 2020 in San Diego. In response, the City enacted the E.N.U.F. Ordinance to prohibit the possession, purchase, sale, receipt, and transportation of non-serialized, unfinished frames and unfinished receivers, and non-serialized firearms within the City of San Diego. The City Council voted in favor of the E.N.U.F. Ordinance 8-1 on August 2, 2021. The committee should hear updates from SDPD and regional partners such as the US Attorney and the San Diego Sherriff’s office on how enforcement of prohibited ghost guns is progressing.

No Shots Fired Youth Intervention Program: In 2021, the No Shots Fired Youth Intervention program was launched to enhance public safety, decrease recidivism, and provide meaningful social services. This program provides a policy solution that quells violence, promotes economic justice and improves community policing relationships. The program is made possible through collaboration between the Office of Mayor Todd Gloria, Council President pro Tem Montgomery Steppe, the San Diego Police Department, Shaphat Outreach, South Bay Community Services, Community Action Support Team, the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention, and other partner organizations. The Committee will request an informational update on the on this program and discuss opportunities to promote similar credible messenger programs that disrupt violence.

SD Nights Program

SD Nights is focused on providing services and programming for teens at risk of entering the juvenile justice system during the summer months when school and other structured activities may be unavailable. The City of San Diego's Teen Nite Program currently provides free activities and field trips for youth every Friday in the summer at 15 locations along with the City of San Diego Police Department. Expanding this initiative to include more community partners will allow the program to grow in scope. Furthermore, it will revamp the program from an afterschool program to a diversion program that will provide recreational and educational opportunities for at-risk youth at least 4 times a week during the summer. SD Nights would be based on a similar program that has been operational and successful in Los Angeles. The County of San Diego also has an SD Nights Program and has partnered with the city of San Diego on the Come Play Outside initiative. The Committee will receive updates from contributing departments on the plans for summer programming and other programming plans throughout the year for youth.

Supporting the City Attorney in Funding of the Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO) Program

In 2019, the State of California provided \$250,000 to operate the GVRO program, but funds have now depleted. To avoid cuts to the operations of the City Attorney's Office, the Public Safety Committee should ensure the City Attorney's Gun Violence Restraining Order program is fully funded and has the resources needed to continue operating the program.

Additional Priorities

Restorative Justice

The Public Safety Committee should continue to advocate for an increased emphasis and usage of restorative justice measures via cross-organization collaboration. The Public Safety Committee will receive updates from the City Attorney's Office (CAO) regarding their Community Justice Initiatives.

Cyber Security

The City of San Diego like many government organizations is a consistent target of cyber security attacks. The Department of Information Technology works diligently to protect our City and its residents from cyber-attacks 24-hours per day, seven days per week. The Committee will hold discussions with the Department of IT to raise awareness of the risks from cyber-attacks and promote safe use of technology in the City.

If you have any questions, please contact the Public Safety Committee Consultant, Justin Garver, at (619) 236-6655 or jgarver@sandiego.gov.