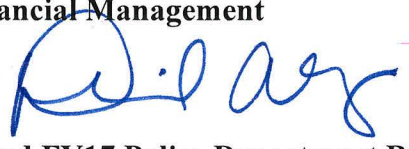**COUNCILMEMBER DAVID ALVAREZ**
City of San Diego
Eighth District

MEMORANDUM

DATE: **May 4, 2016**

TO: **Shelley Zimmerman, Chief of Police**
            Tracy McCraner, Director, Financial Management

FROM: **Councilmember David Alvarez**

SUBJECT: **Questions regarding the Proposed FY17 Police Department Budget**

As I indicated at today's Budget Review Committee meeting, I am providing my questions about the San Diego Police Department's proposed budget in writing.

Sexual Assault Evidence Kits

- Does SDPD send all sexual assault evidence kits it collects to the crime lab for analysis? Of all sexual assault evidence kits booked into evidence, what percentage are sent to the crime lab for analysis?
- Does SDPD have a rapid turnaround DNA program in place to submit forensic evidence collected from the victim of a sexual assault directly from the medical facility where the victim is examined to the crime lab within five days after the evidence is obtained from the victim?
- For all sexual assault evidence kits that are sent to the Crime Lab for analysis, is the analysis complete and are qualifying DNA profiles uploaded into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) within 120 days of the crime labs receipt of the evidence?
- Please provide the following information for FY14, FY15, and FY16.
  - Total number of all sexual assault evidence kits booked into evidence by SDPD;
  - Total number of sexual assault evidence kits sent to the crime lab for analysis;
  - For those kits sent to the crime lab:

- - The mean, median, minimum and maximum number of days elapsed between sexual assault evidence kits being booked into evidence by SDPD and being sent to the crime lab;
  - The mean, median, minimum and maximum number of days elapsed between the crime lab receiving sexual assault evidence kits and the analysis being completed and qualifying DNA profiles uploaded into the CODIS;
  - For those kits NOT sent to the crime lab for analysis: a percentage breakdown of the documented reasons why they were not sent, including but not limited to the following categories:
    - "Non-investigative Report"
    - "Crime occurred in another jurisdiction"
    - "Recant"
    - "Unfounded"
    - "VDP w/ Suspect ID" (unless there might be a cross-case hit),
    - "Other" (For all kits not sent because of Other, please list notes indicating why it was not.)

Sworn Staffing

- The IBA report on the proposed budget for the police department states "…the FY17 budget does not include any new initiatives or resources aimed at improving police recruitment and retention beyond what was negotiated in 2015."
  - Is this accurate?
  - If so, why doesn't the department propose some new ideas to solve the problem?
  - Are their going to be any new initiatives or resources prepared for the May Revise?
- Do you expect to achieve the budgeted and actual staffing goals for FY17 in the Police Department five-year plan?
- Costs increased at the police department this year. In addition to the $2.4 million in cost due to the new MOU, there is a $3 million increase in overtime costs. Is this increase is due to the persistent retention problems?
- Despite the increasing costs, the overall department budget is lower than last year. For example there is a $4.8 million increase in vacancy savings, due to the retention crisis. How many vacancies does the department anticipate filling in FY17?
- Please include as performance measures:
  - Budgeted and Average Actual Sworn Officers per 1,000 population (this appeared in FY 15, FY14, FY13 adopted budgets). Please indicate how this compares with the average of other large cities.
  - Number of police academies and number of recruits per academy by fiscal year

911 Dispatch

- How many days in FY16 has the City been out of compliance with the state standard on 911 calls?

- When 911 calls are not picked up with 10 seconds, how much longer do the emergency callers wait on average? How often do callers that have been placed on hold for longer than 10 seconds end up hanging up?
- A SDPD spokesperson was quoted in a media report saying that: "the focus is on average waits, not eliminating outliers." Does this reflect the department's position?
- The number of budgeted dispatch positions in FY08 was 165, in FY09 it was 164, and in the proposed budget for FY17 it is 163. Given that there are only two less budgeted positions between FY08 and FY17, what does the department believe is the root of the major increase in wait times?
- It is my understanding that dispatchers went on mandatory overtime due to staff shortages three years ago. What has been done in the previous two budgets to remedy this problem? Were additional resources requested to help fix the problems at dispatch in the FY16 budget?
- How many times has the 911 call response time surpassed: 1 minute, 2 minutes, 5 minutes, and 10 minutes since the beginning of FY16?
- In order to keep wait times low on 911, is it a standard practice for dispatchers to switch from answering the non-emergency line to answering 911?
- Please provide the following data for FY16:
  - Average wait times for non-emergency calls;
  - Number of times that non-emergency callers have had to wait longer than: 30 minutes, 45 minutes, one hour, two hours.
    - How many of these callers ended up hanging up?
    - How many of them were later contacted by dispatchers?
  - What impact does the severe delays on the non-emergency line have on the reporting of crimes? Could this potentially skew the City's crime statistics?
- It is my understanding that dispatchers also take inquiries from officers who check to see if people they encounter might have warrants or are on probation. Because of the shortage of dispatchers, I've heard that this service isn't always available to officers. How many days during FY16 has this service been unavailable due to staffing shortages? What do officers do when this service is unavailable?
- How many dispatchers have left the department during the following time periods:
  - The last three weeks
  - The last three months
  - FY16
  - FY15
- Please provide the total number of vacancies in dispatch broken down by week for FY15 and FY16.
- It is my understanding that there is no shortage of applicants for dispatch positions, but very few make it through the background check. Please provide a percentage breakdown of the reasons why applicants for dispatch positions in FY15 and FY16 failed background checks.
- How long does the background check process take for police dispatcher applicants?
- Has the background check process for police dispatchers been streamlined? If so, how?

- Would the SDPD consider allowing the Personnel Department to assist with background checks for police dispatchers until staffing is stabilized?

Miscellaneous

- The percentage of proactive time dropped from 16.2% in FY15 to 14.7% in FY16. In light of continuing retention problems, the FY17 goal of 15% seems unusually optimistic. Does the department believe it can achieve this goal?
- Under department expenditures, why isn't communications its own line item as in previous budgets?

Please provide a written response to the above questions by May 16. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

CC: Honorable City Councilmembers
            Honorable Mayor Kevin Faulconer
            Scott Chadwick, Chief Operating Officer
            Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst