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**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Albert A. Ortiz, Chief of Police

THROUGH: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

COPIES: Christopher J. Brady, Assistant City Manager; File

SUBJECT: Ordinance Expanding the Duties of the Public Safety Team Volunteers

DATE: August 19, 2004

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This ordinance amends City Ordinance No. 89366, dated March 4, 1999, authorizing the City Manager to expand the duties of the San Antonio Police Department Public Safety Team Volunteers, to include enforcement of fire lane parking violations and continuation of enforcement of handicap parking violations.

Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

City Councilman Christopher "Chip" Haass submitted a Council Consideration Request on August 5, 2004, directing City staff to bring for consideration, an amendment to City Ordinance No. 89366 before the City Council. The amendment would expand the duties of the San Antonio Police Department's fifty (50) Public Safety Team volunteers. The expansion of duties would include the enforcement of fire lane parking violations and a continuation of enforcement of handicap parking violations. These additional duties for the Public Safety Team volunteers will help police officers allot their time for situations of higher need, as they continue to secure general public safety for the community. This item is scheduled for discussion at the Governance Committee meeting on August 18, 2004.

City Ordinance No. 89366, dated March 4, 1999, authorized the San Antonio Police Department to train Public Safety Team (PST) volunteers to issue handicap parking citations within the city limits to violators of the Texas handicap parking laws under Transportation Code 681.010. The purpose of the project is to reduce the number of handicap parking violations and to prevent further violations. Under this project, the PST volunteers issue citations on any vehicle found to be parked in a parking space or parking area designated for the exclusive use of vehicles transporting persons with disabilities in violation of City Code 19-201, Texas Transportation Code Section 681.010 and all other applicable laws. The PST is a group of non-paid volunteers who are uniformed, operate city vehicles, and issue only handicap parking citations. They have been operating within the SAPD for four years without incident. They are currently administered out of the Uniform Patrol Division and are under the supervision of "PST Coordinators" out of each service area's San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE) Unit.

POLICY ANALYSIS

This action continues City Council policy of clarifying existing City Codes. In addition, the Public Safety Team project allows the City of San Antonio to enhance community policing efforts and increase the patrol availability factor within neighborhoods.

FISCAL IMPACT

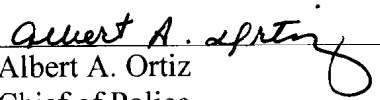
There are no new costs affected by this project. According to the SAPD Municipal Court Liaison, since the inception of the PST program October 1, 2002, revenue generated through handicap parking fines total \$158,524.50.

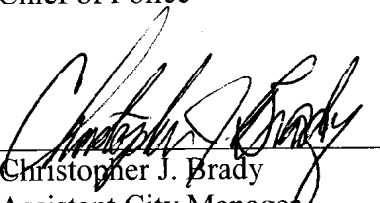
COORDINATION

This ordinance request has been coordinated with the Finance Department, Office of Management & Budget, Public Works, Municipal Court, and the City Attorney's Office.

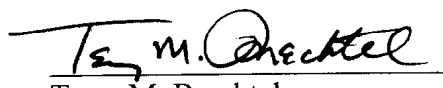
SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENTS

This item does not require an Ethics Ordinance Disclosure Statement or a Discretionary Contracts Disclosure Form.


Albert A. Ortiz
Chief of Police


Christopher J. Brady
Assistant City Manager

Approved:


Terry M. Brechtel
City Manager

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE SHEET

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Councilman Chip Haass, District 10

COPIES TO: Terry Brechtel, City Manager; J. Rolando Bono, Deputy City Manager; Andrew Martin, City Attorney; Albert Ortiz, Chief of Police; Management Team; Gayle McDaniel, Assistant to the City Council; Assistants to the Mayor; File

SUBJECT: Request for city staff to expand the duties of the Public Safety Team (PST) to now include writing tickets for fire lane violations.

DATE: August 5, 2004

I am requesting Council concurrence, to direct staff, to expand the duties of our Public Safety Team (PST). In working with Robert Ressman and our neighborhood Public Safety Team, we have identified ticket writing for automobiles parked in fire lanes and in space designated for the disabled as appropriate areas for the expansion of duties. These additional duties for our PST's are intended to help police officers allot their time for situations of higher need as they continue to secure general public safety for our community.

Your favorable consideration is appreciated.


CHIP HAASS, DISTRICT 10


EDWARD D. GARZA, MAYOR


ROGER O. FLORES, DISTRICT 1


JOEL WILLIAMS, DISTRICT 2


RON H. SEGOVIA, DISTRICT 3


RICHARD PEREZ, DISTRICT 4


PATTI RADLE, DISTRICT 5


ENRIQUE BARRERA, DISTRICT 6


JULIAN CASTRO, DISTRICT 7


ART A. HALL, DISTRICT 8


CARROLL W. SCHUBERT, DISTRICT 9

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