

Agenda item 36
Revised

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Albert A. Ortiz, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Amending City Ordinance No. 89366, dated March 4, 1999 and Section 33-044 of the San Antonio City Code relating to Vehicles for Hire

DATE: March 10, 2005

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Amending City Ordinance No. 89366, dated March 4, 1999 and Section 33-044 of the San Antonio City Code to expand the enforcement duties of the San Antonio Police Department Public Safety Team Volunteers to include administrative violations of the Vehicles for hire regulations of Chapter 33 of the City Code.

Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On January 20, 2005, Council approved Ordinance No. 100329 which amended City Code Chapter 33 "Vehicles for Hire" by clarifying certain terms' definitions, removing certain terms and adding new language to promote efficient, reliable, and quality ground transportation services. The enforcement would be implemented by the San Antonio Police Department Public Safety Team (SAPD/PST) volunteers, Bicycle Patrol Officers, and Detectives from other units. In order to accomplish this enforcement effort the SAPD/PST must be authorized to issue administrative citations. This will be accomplished by amending Section 33-044 of the San Antonio City Code to read:

"A vehicle for hire driver shall at all times keep a driver permit in the driver's possession and shall allow the director, a peace officer, or any other person authorized to enforce the provisions of this chapter to examine said permit upon request."

This ordinance will authorize the SAPD/PST's to act as ground transportation enforcement volunteers, with the authority to issue administrative citations. Examples of citations that may be issued are: overloading taxi stand or taxi, incomplete manifest, refusing to transport, unsafe driving/parking, not using meter, personal hygiene, parking in other areas other than a cab stand, expired, no or invalid TDL, expired City driver permit, driving for other than listed on City Permit, charter vehicle soliciting, incorrect or no permit, and no insurance.

The SAPD/PST is a group of non-paid volunteers who are uniformed, operate city vehicles, and 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 a "PST Coordinator" out of each service area's San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE) Unit. Currently PST's enforce handicap and fire lane violations. These additional duties for the PST's will help police officers allot their time for situations of higher need, as they continue to secure general public safety for the community.

POLICY ANALYSIS

This action facilitates City Council's continuing policy of conducting comprehensive reviews and oversight of city operations.

FISCAL IMPACT

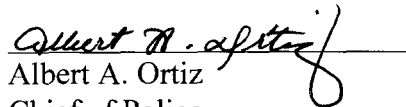
This action does not impact the General Fund.

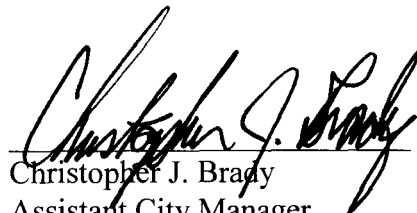
COORDINATION

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

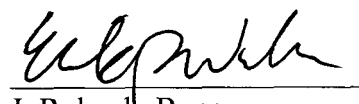
SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS

The Discretionary Contracts Disclosure Form is not required.


Albert A. Ortiz
Chief of Police


Christopher J. Brady
Assistant City Manager

Approved:


J. Rolando Bono
Interim City Manager