



# MEETING MINUTES

Criminal Justice Reform Committee (Virtual)  
February 7, 2022 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

- **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m.

- **ROLL CALL**

**Members In Attendance:**

- Councilmember Maxfield Baker (Committee Chair)
- Mayor Jane Hughson
- Councilmember Alyssa Garza

**Staff Support In Attendance:**

- Interim City Manager Stephanie Reyes
- Director of Public Safety Chase Stapp
- Police Chief Stan Standridge
- Assistant Police Chief Bob Klett
- Assistant Police Chief Brandon Winkenwerder
- Administrative Coordinator/Minute Taker Tammy Strakos

- **MINUTES**

- CONSIDER APPROVAL, BY MOTION, OF THE JANUARY 5, 2022 MEETING MINUTES  
Motion made by Hughson to approve meeting minutes from January 5, 2022, seconded by Baker. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.

- **UPDATES**

- DOWNTOWN STAKEHOLDER MEETING (*Chief Standridge*)  
An update was provided on a recent meeting held by SMPD in conjunction with TABC (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission) with approximately 70 downtown bar owners/managers/stakeholders in attendance. Trust in SMPD was expressed by those in attendance, and relationships will continue to be built in subsequent meetings. Overview of concerns/issues brought up by those in attendance, including violent crime trend in the downtown area. Discussion with stakeholders was made regarding proper reclassification of bars that occurred in 2020 due to COVID in which the bars became “restaurants” in order to continue business. There is a need to return to former bar classifications to reduce crime propensity, including carrying of firearms by patrons that is illegal in licensed premises. Many bars are in the process of proper reclassification, and more follow up will be had for those who are not compliant by the next meeting. Discussion of dress code, tattoos, etc. brought up by bar owners will be their responsibility to enforce. SMPD cannot and will not enforce decorum

(house rules). TABC addressed issue of bar staff serving while intoxicated and the hefty fines associated with the behavior. Another meeting will be scheduled in two months with the plan to continue meeting every other month thereafter.

- YTD 2022 VIOLENT CRIME TRENDS (*Chief*)  
Violent Crime is up with 23 aggravated assaults since January 1, 2022; 6 kidnappings/abductions; and 7 robberies. SMPD is addressing the increased victimization of San Marcos citizens by working with Communications to adequately share information, establishing geographical command for supervisors who will own issues in their specific geographical areas; procuring fixed cameras for license plate recognition along major ingress/egress routes into San Marcos, weekly meetings to identify trends in crime, and installing downtown lighting and cameras. Discussion by committee of monitoring social media from bars and University partnerships to address blatantly illegal activity. Stephanie Reyes, Interim City Manager, will discuss in their next meeting with University leadership. Garza introduced a discussion of potential socio-economic factors and core issues related to crime and fostering a community where crime is less of an option.
- SENATE BILL 64: STATE'S FIRST EVER PEER SUPPORT NETWORK (*Chief*)  
Senate Bill 64 went into effect September 1, 2021 and created 6 regions across Texas to address mental health, wellness and resiliency of Texas Peace Officers. The bill allocated enough money to fund 3 of the 6 regions and for the hiring of a state director and three regional managers to build mental health services for officers. The program is overseen by Caruth Police Institute, with our region staffed out of Belton. This program will include an app available through officers' TCOLE account to confidentially and easily access licensed mental health professionals at no cost to the officer. SMPD is already addressing mental health and wellness beyond this new program with the services of a licensed psychologist on retainer, a fully trained Peer Support Team, and a chaplaincy program.
- COUNTY UPDATES, IF ANY, BY THE TIME OF THIS MEETING (*Chief*)  
There have been no CJR meetings at the county level and there is still no Executive Director named to preside over pretrial services in order to move forward with Cite & Divert. Additionally, there were no warrants issued for non-compliant cite and release offenders, which is very concerning.

- **IDENTIFY AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS | NEXT MEETING: 3.2.22**

Committee members may provide requests for discussion items for a future agenda in accordance with Council Committee Procedures. *No further discussion will be held related to topics proposed until they are posted on a future agenda.*

- **10.18.21** Staff responses to five (5) identified topics outlined in Campaign Zero discussion (*Baker*)
- **10.18.21** Update to request made on 8.4.21: committee would like progress/status on any of the County's criminal justice reform efforts including, but not limited to, Cite & Divert, the status of Public Defender program, what has been discussed at the County Criminal Justice Reform Commission, with perhaps minutes of the Commission meetings to suffice. Committee requests

that written reports/meeting minutes, etc. be provided in advance via email versus going through it during a Criminal Justice Reform Committee meeting  
(*Hughson*)

- **10.18.21** Follow up with VERA Institute of Justice, with a narrower scope of evaluating San Marcos data and whether Vera can offer guidance on enhancing our own analytics (*Baker/Hughson*)
- **2.7.22** Review of policy related to release of video cam footage. Per Reyes, Communications is actively working on an administrative policy that will codify specific language to guide these practices. (*Garza*)

- **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.