



Memorandum

TO: JOINT MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY, FINANCE AND STRATEGIC SUPPORT COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

FROM: Councilmember Arenas

SUBJECT: POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS AND PERFORMANCE BI-MONTHLY STATUS REPORT

DATE: June 20, 2019

Approved

Date

6/20/2019

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Include research into the following questions in the upcoming info memo and/or special council meeting and the research collaboration with the University of Texas San Antonio:
 - a. What role does overcrowding and substandard housing play as a factor in the rise in sexual assaults, especially of minor children?
 - b. How do San Jose's "distribution of internal status" designations, including lack of victim cooperation, compare to other similar jurisdictions?
 - c. What internal improvements in PD practices would improve cooperation from victims? What kinds of trainings could support these improvements?
 - d. What role does cultural responsiveness and cultural competency play in successfully closing cases in a diverse place like San Jose?
 - e. What intervention ages would have maximum impact? What neighborhoods would be most effective to target of school-based interventions?
 - f. What inter-agencies strategies should be initiated? Which should be led by the City?
 - g. What could a neighborhood-specific strategy look like?
- 2) Include in the summer info memo steps to explore opportunities for trauma informed and culturally competent law enforcement training response to sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking to serve San José's diverse community in collaboration with ethnic based agencies such as, Asian Americans for Community Involvement, Gardner Health Services, Indian Health Center, Mekong Community Center, or Ujima.
- 3) Include in the future work on this item any intersectional recommendations that can be included (including domestic violence and human trafficking).
- 4) Include in future PSFSS Workplans or Council Meetings agenda items to review next steps for any Domestic Violence or Human Trafficking recommendations deemed outside of the scope of the work on Sexual Assaults.

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Strategic Support Committee and
Committee of the Whole
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BACKGROUND

I thank the City Administration and my colleagues for moving forward this important item. This hearing is part of a larger effort to move the needle on the growing number of sexual assaults in San Jose. As we have seen, the number of FBI UCR reported rapes in the city has almost tripled from 2008 to 2018, and early reports for 2019 show the increase continues. I appreciate how strongly the city administration has dedicated itself to this work and to collaborating with the Council to bring forward process improvements to address these issues. It is vital to the City's mission of keeping our community safe – and to our status as one of the safest major cities in the country.

As the Police Department engages with the University of Texas San Antonio to deeply study this question and bring forward information and strategies, we ask that the questions this memo brings forward be included in their review. We hope that the Administration will also include any additional questions raised in the course of the PSFSS committee meeting.

Additionally, recognizing the intersectionality of the issues of violence against women and children – including sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking – this memo requests that the recommendations that came out of the joint meeting with the County not be lost as we move forward. Whether they are included in the meetings currently scheduled, or if additional hearings are scheduled for PSFSS or the Council, these items should remain on the public agenda.