



**MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
PUBLIC SAFETY, FINANCE AND STRATEGIC SUPPORT COMMITTEE  
AND MEETING OF THE WHOLE**

**SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021**

*Consistent with the California Governor's Executive Order No. N-29-20, Resolution No. 79450 from the City of San José and the Santa Clara County Health Officer's March 16, 2020 Shelter in Place Order, the City Council meeting was not physically open to the public. Public comments were accepted via eComment, email, by phone/Webinar or online.*

The Committee meeting was teleconferenced from remote locations and convened at 1:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Raul Peralez, Chair; Councilmember Sergio Jimenez, Vice Chair; Councilmember Matt Mahan; Vice Mayor Chappie Jones, Councilmember Sylvia Arenas (1:50 p.m.), Members.

**ABSENT:** All present.

**STAFF:** Assistant City Manager Jennifer Maguire; Senior Deputy City Attorney Rosa Tsongtaatarii; Paul Pereira, Mayor's Office; City Clerk Toni Taber, and Deputy City Clerk Ruth Krantz.

**REVIEW OF WORK PLAN**

Action: Upon motion by Vice Mayor Chappie Jones, seconded by Councilmember Sergio Jimenez and carried unanimously, the Work Plan was accepted. (4-0-1. Absent: Arenas.)

**REPORTS TO COMMITTEE**

**1. Sexual Assault Response and Strategy Annual Report. (Police)**

Police Lieutenant Jaime Jimenez opened with a presentation on Strategy, Goals, and Plans; Crime & Intelligence Analyst Angelie Montesa continued with a thorough update on Sexual Assault Work items, the Sexual Assault Investigations Unit (SAIU) and Special Victims Unit (SVU) Reports and the impact of COVID-19.

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## **1. Sexual Assault Response and Strategy Annual Report. (Cont'd.)**

Public Comments: (1) Paul Soto spoke to his own victimization and the lack of a supportive response when reported. (2) Catherine Campbell, South Bay Human Trafficking Task Force, spoke to gaps in reporting of child sexual abuse with cases instead going to family court. (3) Blair Beekman spoke to the support these meetings provide and changes being made in reimagining and community involvement. (4) A service provider with the Asian Women's Home spoke to survivors trapped in their own home during COVID, increased demand for services and the communication gap between law enforcement and API survivors. She advocated for the support hotline her organization provides, and for a more data-driven coordinated community response including culturally-responsive community advocates for under-represented survivors and their families.

Lindsey Mansfield (YWCA Associate Director of Support Services) spoke to the domestic violence advocacy program at the YWCA, linking up their resources and community programs, education and outreach events. Police Lieutenant Brian Anderson spoke to memorialization of documents, and grants were addressed.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Sylvia Arenas, seconded by Vice Mayor Chappie Jones and carried unanimously, the annual report on the Police Department's Sexual Assault Response and Strategy, including detailed sexual assault crime statistics and trends, and measurable outcomes that are aligned across law enforcement agencies and community service providers consistent with best practices, as well as a work item status update, was accepted. (5-0.)

## **2. Police Department Duty Manual Updates Report. (Police)**

Crime & Intelligence Analyst Angelie Montesa offered a presentation on Duty Manual amendments, addressing all objectives.

Public Comments: (1) Paul Soto spoke to the sexual assault he experienced on March 3, his subsequent eviction and the lack of response to his plight. (2) Blair Beekman spoke to viable options for receiving help and a need for a better peer review program. (3) Perla Flores thanked Councilmember Sylvia Arenas and the intersectionality tools being used by the Police Department.

Councilmember Raul Peralez indicated to Mr. Soto that he was being heard and this incident would be addressed. Councilmember Sylvia Arenas noted her and other agency's response and committed to continued discussion with Paul Soto.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Sylvia Arenas, seconded by Vice Mayor Chappie Jones and carried unanimously, (1) the report on updates to the Police Department's Duty Manual, including but not limited to Section S4312 Sexual Assault Cases and Section S4313 Domestic Violence, for the purposes of improving the Police Department's interaction with

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## **2. Police Department Duty Manual Updates Report. (Cont'd.)**

survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other vulnerable populations, including 1) requiring officers to respond to and investigate all calls for service for domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and human trafficking for potential high lethality and write a police report if a crime occurred, and 2) ensuring a trauma-informed approach to an officer's response by providing survivors with access to an in-person advocate and/or a referral to such advocate by telephone, pamphlet, or resource card before the officer leaves the scene regardless if the survivor asks for the referral services. (2) The Police Department Duty Manual Updates Report was referred to the April 13, 2021, City Council Meeting for full adoption. (5-0.)

## **3. Advocate Referrals: Further Improvements to Processes and Data Sharing Can Help Connect More Survivors to Services. (City Auditor)**

City Auditor Joe Rois spoke to Findings regarding advocacy services, and Police Lieutenant Jaime Jimenez spoke to the findings and the intention to address these before the end of the year.

Public Comments: (1) Paul Soto spoke on what is being presented by the YWCA and Police Department and indicated that his experience on the street tells a different story. (2) Blair Beekman noted hopeful changes and considerations and thanked presenters for the report.

Councilmember Sylvia Arenas referenced Recommendation #6, and whether the MOU may include expanding community partners for outreach and needs for communities disproportionately affected, asking if it could include a monthly list of referrals for survivors who have consented to be recipients. Acting Assistant Chief of Police Dave Tindall indicated he would look into this if there are no evident conflicts.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Sylvia Arenas, seconded by Vice Mayor Chappie Jones and carried unanimously, the report “Advocate Referrals: Further Improvements to Processes and Data Sharing Can Help Connect More Survivors to Services” was accepted and referred to the April 6, 2021, City Council Meeting for full adoption. (5-0.)

## **4. Suicide Prevention Policy Annual Report. (HR/City Manager-Administration, Policy, and Intergovernmental Relations/City Manager-Communications)**

Assistant to the City Manager, Sarah Zárate provided the report on operationalizing the Council Policy, and campaign and awareness efforts being put forward.

Public Comments: (1) Paul Soto addressed the correlation between suicide rates and gentrification and the powerlessness of those affected. (2) Vic Ojakian offered appreciation for this discussion. (3) Blair Beekman addressed how as a community we can end systemic violence. (4) Kathy Tran expressed gratitude for passing the policy and thanked staff for their work.

Councilmember Raul Peralez asked if the City could obtain data from the County where the most impacted and at-risk communities are located so resources can be targeted, and specifically,

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#### 4. Suicide Prevention Policy Annual Report (Cont'd.)

how we are reaching out to senior populations. Assistant to the City Manager, Sarah Zárate offered to reach out to the County's Manager for Suicide Prevention to better understand how they are targeting messaging for this community. Councilmember Sylvia Arenas followed up with additional requests for more detailed data. Ms. Zárate stated that only a preliminary analysis has been available from the County, as the data set lags by one year, but would reach out to the County to better understand distribution of the demographics and if more specificity can be obtained regarding geographic location.

Councilmember Matt Mahan questioned which outreach programs are most effective, asking if this could be included in next year's report. Assistant to the City Manager, Sarah Zárate offered to inquire with the County's data working group to determine outreach efficacy.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Matt Mahan, seconded by Vice Mayor Chappie Jones and carried unanimously, the annual report on the City's Suicide Prevention Policy, including an update on the issue of suicide prevention and strategies to further promote the policy, was accepted. (5-0.)

Councilmember Raul Peralez welcomed Senior Deputy City Attorney Rosa Tsongtaatarii as the new attorney representing the Public Safety, Finance and Strategic Support Committee

#### OPEN FORUM

1. Blair Beekman spoke to addressing issues of suicide and gun violence. Regarding the lawsuit against the City resulting from the George Floyd protest, he inquired what changes Chief Mata may enact regarding peaceful assemblies and accountability.
2. Paul Soto thanked Councilmember Sylvia Arenas for addressing psychological effects of children's isolation that can break the psyche, cultures and spirits of victims, and addressed the need for restitution.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Sergio Jimenez adjourned the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

*Approved via email*

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Councilmember Raul Peralez, Chair  
Public Safety, Finance and Strategic Support Committee