



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Edgardo Garcia

SUBJECT: SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE AND
STRATEGY WORKPLAN STATUS
UPDATE

DATE: August 28, 2019

Approved

Date

INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

On May 30, 2019, Councilmembers Arenas, Carrasco, Davis, Esparza and Foley released a memorandum for the June 5, 2019 Rules and Open Government Committee meeting. This memorandum, which was approved by the Committee, directed staff to undertake work related to sexual assaults. Among other items, the Administration was directed to issue an informational memorandum in Summer 2019 that lays out the Administration's response to and strategy for the problem of sexual assaults, schedule a City Council special meeting on the topic of sexual assaults for September 2019, and formalize a sexual assault working group with the County of Santa Clara.

Council Member Arenas also released a memorandum for the June 20, 2019 Public Safety, Finance and Strategic Support Committee (PSFSS) meeting, held on the same day, in which she provided a list of specific questions related to sexual assaults that she requested be answered through the informational memorandum or the special meeting. This memorandum was approved by the Committee.

ANALYSIS

The Police Department has been pursuing the direction from the two memorandums discussed above. The purpose of this informational memorandum is to provide an update on the Department's progress on this work and to inform the City Council of the need to defer the special meeting from the current September 27, 2019 date to a date in early to mid-November.

University of Texas at San Antonio Research and Other Departmental Work: The Police Department has engaged researchers from the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) to

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work with the Department's Crime Analysis Unit to examine 6-8 years of sexual assault data (Uniform Crime Report: Part-1) using a variety of statistical, analytic, and mapping techniques. The goal of the work will be to identify, if possible, any patterns, trends, or changes in the data over time that might allow for the development of additional Police Department responses or further interventions to reduce the incidence of sexual assaults in San José. The consultant agreement was fully executed in late August, and the consultant work is expected to be complete in October 2019.

As part of the Police Department Operations and Performance Bi-Monthly Status Report at the June 20 PSFSS meeting, the Police Department identified a list of policy proposals and work items related to sexual assaults, some of which resulted from a joint meeting between the City's PSFSS Committee and the County's Children, Seniors, and Families Committee and others that the Department had identified. These items were grouped according to whether they were already in practice by the Department, had implementation in progress, were worth investigating, or were best implemented through partnerships. The Department has continued to work on implementation of many of these items.

Informational Memorandum: The Police Department is preparing an informational memorandum, consistent with the direction from the June 5 Rules and Open Government Committee memorandum. This memorandum is expected to be released in late September. This memorandum will outline the Department's current strategy on the issue of sexual assaults, update the City Council on the Department's ongoing work on this issue and, to the extent possible prior to completion of the UTSA research, will respond to the questions posed in the June 20 PSFSS memorandum. If any of the questions require additional information from the UTSA research, or if the final results of that study indicate that the Police Department sexual assault strategy and response should be modified, staff will release supplemental information after the research is complete.

City Council Special Meeting: The Special Meeting with the City Council on sexual assaults is currently scheduled for September 27, 2019. The UTSA team estimates completing their work in October, 2019. The Department believes it would be useful for the City Council to have the results of the UTSA research available at the Special Meeting for review and discussion. To that end, the Administration will release the September 27, 2019 date and work to find a new date for the Special Meeting in early to mid-November and bring to the Rules and Open Government Committee for approval in September.

Status of the County Sexual Assault Response Work Group: The City Manager's Office has been in regular contact with the Santa Clara County Office of Women's Policy this summer regarding the sexual assault response work group that the County is convening. Staff is coordinating the City's participation in this group which will be holding its first meeting on September 13, 2019. It is currently anticipated that two Police Department sworn staff and a member of the City Manager's Office will be attending these meetings. An update regarding this work group will be provided as part of the forthcoming informational memorandum or at the upcoming special meeting, as appropriate. It should also be noted that based on this work group's meeting schedule, an additional joint meeting between the PSFSS Committee and the

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County's Children, Seniors and Families Committee to assist in coordination between the City and County agencies will be scheduled for a future date, accordingly.

/s/

EDGARDO GARCIA
Chief of Police

For questions, please contact Lieutenant Paul Cook, Research & Development Unit Commander at (408) 277-5200.