



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Jalen McKee-Rodriguez
COPIES TO: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Emily McGinn, Assistant to City Council
SUBJECT: Office of Crime & Recidivism Prevention
DATE: January 11, 2022

Issue Proposed for Consideration:

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

The establishment of an Office of Crime and Recidivism Prevention (OCRP). The OCRP should apply a multidisciplinary criminological and public health approach to violence and crime prevention through the use of research, data, analysis, and data application to make informed policy, budget, and strategy recommendations in order to ensure the sustained safety and stability of families and communities most impacted by crime and recidivism in San Antonio. The Office should accomplish this by analyzing the causes of crime to include the opportunity gap that exists between communities.

The OCRP will help each City Department answer the questions: What role does our office play in increasing access to opportunity, supporting residents who may be at-risk, and preventing the root causes of crime?

Brief Background:

In August 2020, the San Antonio City Council voted to enact a resolution which declares racism as a public health crisis in recognition of "San Antonio's history of segregation and redlining; the link between racism and negative health outcomes; and the health inequities experienced by Black, Latinx, and other people of color in San Antonio." In passing the resolution, the City recognized the inherent systemic violence which has negatively affected the health, wellbeing, and opportunities of economic advancement of BIPOC San Antonians. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate these chasms of inequity, whether in personal or economic loss. These economic and deeply personal blows have left many San Antonio communities in a state of hopelessness and desperation - a state that, when coupled with poverty and uncertainty, is conducive to crime according to Dr. Doshie Piper, Associate Professor, Department of Criminal Justice at the University of the Incarnate Word.

The City's present efforts to address this need are a strong start, however, we need more concerted and intentional effort in order to be consistently effective in reducing crime and recidivism. An initial contract with UTSA criminologists to analyze calls for service alongside the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute has demonstrated how partnerships with subject-matter experts can be beneficial to our work and policies. The City's investment in data analysts within ITSD illustrates the impact of a dedicated team focused on improving crime, public safety data collection, communication and transparency.

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Additionally, the City's past and current investment in violence prevention work at Metro Health, show the promise of public safety interventions outside of the realm of our police department.

The development of an Office of Crime and Recidivism Prevention is a natural next step in guiding the city toward a proactive strategy and framework of crime recidivism.

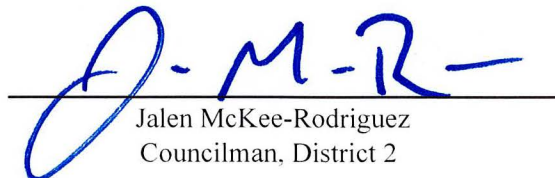
The primary function of the Office shall be to bring together data-driven, evidence-based crime prevention, public health, education, and related strategies to proactively and responsively reduce and prevent crime and its impact in San Antonio. The Office will work collaboratively with the San Antonio Police Department, Metro Health, educational institutions and other city, state, federal, neighborhood and community-based partners to achieve these goals.

The role of the OCRP will be advisory and will recognize other COSA departments as clients, as they establish goals, policies, and procedures that will enable a multi-faceted approach to crime prevention from the lens of each office. The office will guide policy and budgeting recommendations related to crime and recidivism prevention.



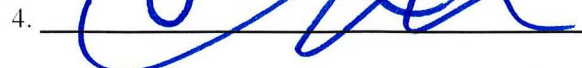
The goals of the office shall include, but not be limited to:

- 1) The employment of criminologists to provide the city with the professional expertise necessary to reduce crime systemically,
- 2) The prevention and reduction of crime and recidivism across the city through strategic planning informed by professionally derived data collection and analysis,
- 3) Establishing the first city department primarily intended to focus on, address, and prevent recidivism,
- 4) Establishing more streamlined and sustained communication related to crime by way of creating an office that can be held accountable for posing crime prevention questions and finding solutions rooted in City action.
- 5) Offsetting SAPD's administrative workload and responsibilities to provide increased SAPD capacity for more pressing and immediate policing matters.

Submitted for Council consideration by:


Jalen McKee-Rodriguez
Councilman, District 2

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures

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District

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