



**Councilmember Marni von Wilpert**

*City of San Diego • District 5*

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 6, 2025  
**TO:** Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee  
**FROM:** Councilmember Marni von Wilpert, Chair, Public Safety Committee  
**SUBJECT:** 2025 Public Safety Committee Work Plan

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I am honored to serve as the Chair of the City Council’s Public Safety Committee, and I am pleased to share our committee’s 2025 Work Plan. I look forward to working with my fellow Public Safety Committee members and the public to move towards our shared goals of protecting our communities from wildfires, ensuring our first responders have the tools they need to perform their crucial jobs, increasing public trust with police, ensuring community equity, and prioritizing government accountability in the year ahead.

In consideration of Committee Member priorities for 2025, the Public Safety Committee will focus on the following areas:

**Public Safety Personnel**

**Fire-Rescue and Police Recruitment and Retention, and Diverse Workforce**

Ensuring our Police, Firefighters, and Lifeguards have adequate staffing and resources is essential to decrease emergency response times. Having diversity in our public safety institutions that aligns with the diversity of our community is also essential. Our City must continue to intentionally focus on diversity in recruiting and outreach programs in creative ways, such as the Fire-Rescue Department’s successful Girls Empowerment Camp and Woman’s Fire Prep Academy, and the Police Department Cadet program. The Committee will request updates from the Fire-Rescue and Police Departments on their current efforts to improve recruitment, retention, and diversity.

**SDPD and SD Fire-Rescue Training Facility Update**

Ensuring our public safety departments have the essential training facilities they need to keep our officers, firefighters, and lifeguards trained and prepared to respond to emergencies is critical. The Committee will request updates from SDPD and the Fire Rescue Department on their training facility needs and will receive updates on planned facilities.

**San Diego Regional Public Safety Training Institute Update**

Part of reimagining public safety is recruiting, training, and providing ongoing development for a diverse workforce. The San Diego Regional Public Safety Training Institute (SDRPSTI) at San Diego Miramar College is accredited by California Commission on Peace Officer standards and Training (POST) to provide police academies. Providing support to fund additional academies could

assist the city in producing more recruits and recovering from ongoing staffing challenges within the Police Department. Furthermore, Miramar College is supportive of training programs that uphold diversity and inclusion. The Committee will request an update from SDTRI on their current efforts and challenges to deliver high quality Police Academies needed to support the City's policing needs.

### **Mental Health Support for Our First Responders**

Our first responders work in crisis situations on a daily basis and ensuring access to mental health support services is essential. The Committee will bring updates from the Fire-Rescue and Police Departments' Wellness Units to better understand the current mental health programs available to our Police, Firefighters, and Lifeguards and discuss ways to improve and enhance the services being provided.

### **Advanced Lifeguard Academy and Lifeguard Plan Update**

In 2014, the Lifeguard Division presented a Five-Year Plan that covered the need for additional lifeguards and funding for vessel replacements. The Lifeguard Division projects a turnover of 25% of their full-time staff retiring in the coming years. The Committee will receive updates from the Lifeguard Division on their current staffing and operational needs, including facility needs and rescue vessel replacement challenges.

## **Police**

### **Commission on Police Practices**

The Committee will hold discussions on the Commission's implementation of standard operating procedures as well as receive informational updates related to CPP activities.

### **Update from Racial Identity Profiling Advisory Board and Government Affairs on State Police Accountability Bills**

The Racial Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) initiated a statewide board that seeks to eliminate racial and identity profiling and improve diversity and racial and identity sensitivity in law enforcement. The Committee will work with SDPD to bring forward progress reports to the Committee, including information about the overwhelming evidence that shows that inequities in the criminal justice system and law enforcement disproportionately impact LGBTQ community and any racial bias complaints, the outcomes of such complaints, and any action taken by SDPD to mitigate biases.

### **Reduction of Social Service Contacts Conducted by San Diego Police Officers**

Addressing issues such as homelessness, substance abuse, mental health crises, and youth interactions requires specialized training and careful oversight to ensure that each situation is met with the appropriate response. One notable example of progress in this area is the successful integration of clinicians alongside officers in the Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT) and Mobile Crisis Support Teams, providing a more effective and compassionate approach to crisis intervention. SDPD will provide updates to the Public Safety Committee on the feasibility of expanding these programs to ultimately reduce the number of social service contacts conducted by law enforcement. The Committee should receive a presentation from the City Attorney's Office and County of San Diego on the City's role in implementing Care Court, Prop 1 and Senate Bill 43. These initiatives are essential to addressing behavioral health needs within our community.

### **Neighborhood Policing Division Update**

Since its establishment in 2018, the Neighborhood Policing Division (NPD) has been responsible for coordinating the Homeless Outreach Team using the Progressive Enforcement Model. The Public Safety Committee will receive an update on the progress of NPD that will also include the progressive enforcement model and the associated processes on how SDPD directs individuals living in their cars to safe-parking lots.

### **Vehicle Towing and Impounding**

In 2023, the City Council received a Performance Audit related to the City's Towing Program, which showed lower income San Diegans are disproportionately impacted by current practices, regulations, and penalties. The Committee will consider changes to the City's Towing Program to address economic disparities impacting San Diegans.

### **Update on Federal and State Task Force Enforcement**

Given that San Diego is the leader for the binational region, SDPD routinely collaborates with multiple federal, state, and international law enforcement agencies. The committee will receive an update from SDPD on the success that various task forces have had relating to child, human, gun, and drug trafficking in our region.

### **SDPD Communications and Dispatch Wait Times**

The Public Safety Committee should receive an update from the San Diego Police Department on the triage protocol for how specific types of San Diego Police Staff are assigned to various community calls. Receiving an update on these protocols will allow the Public Safety Committee to develop solutions for internal policy reform to ensure the appropriate number and type of SDPD Officers are sent to each call.

### **Update from the City Attorney office on Nuisance Abatement Unit**

The Public Safety Committee should receive an update from the Nuisance Abatement Unit (NAU) of the City Attorney's Office. The NAU is a specialized unit dedicated to aggressively enforcing public nuisance, land use, and environmental laws to preserve and enhance the quality of life in our communities. Working in collaboration with City departments, Council Offices, community groups, and law enforcement, the NAU targets problem properties associated with ongoing crime, including drug activity, alcohol-related issues, prostitution, graffiti, and transient encampments. The unit also addresses fire hazards and other public safety concerns.

## **Emergency Medical System**

### **Emergency Medical and Mental Health Services**

In order to continuously improve the services we provide to our communities, the Committee will hold discussions with our Fire-Rescue Department about our EMS providers' response times, overall service to the City and any new and changing healthcare models. These discussions should include, but not be limited to, evaluating the opportunities that community paramedicine provides, and identifying new and innovative ways to work with our County partners to improve the public's access to mental health services.

The Committee will receive updates from Psychiatric Emergency Response Teams (PERT) and Mobile Crisis Response Teams (MCRT), updates from 911 diversion program, updates from the City Attorney's Conservator and Treatment Unit.

Lastly, this Committee will receive updates from the Emergency medical Service EMS Nurse Navigation Program. This program aims to reduce emergency room wait times and ambulance trips in addition to saving patients thousands of dollars in medical expenses and fees.

## **Opioids/Fentanyl**

### **Fentanyl Crisis**

The proliferation of fentanyl has led to a devastating increase in overdose deaths and violence across San Diego. In response, Mayor Todd Gloria issued an Executive Order on November 29, 2022, to address the crisis. The Committee will receive updates on the implementation of this order and engage with governmental agencies, healthcare experts, and nonprofit partners to explore solutions, coordinate efforts, and raise awareness.

A key focus of these efforts is expanding access to Naloxone (Narcan), a life-saving nasal spray that rapidly reverses opioid overdoses. As the nation faces the worst opioid crisis in its history, fentanyl-related overdoses continue to claim lives at an alarming rate. The Committee will work with the Mayor's office and City departments to identify strategies for increasing Narcan availability at City facilities.

Additionally, narcotics investigations indicate a troubling rise in drug sales, including fentanyl, methamphetamine, and heroin, among San Diego's unsheltered population. City-operated shelters and contractor-run facilities have also been affected. The Public Safety Committee will request an informational update from SDPD on efforts to combat drug trafficking, protect vulnerable individuals from predatory dealers, and secure necessary state and federal resources to address this crisis effectively.

### **Opioid Settlement**

The Committee will work with the Office of Government Affairs, the City Attorney's office, and the Office of the Independent Budget Analyst to discuss options for expending the approximately \$40 million in Opioid settlement funding that the City will receive. These discussions will also consider opportunities to coordinate with the County on their \$100 million Opioid Settlement Framework approved by the County Board of Supervisors.

## **Wildfire and Brush Management**

### **Wildfire Prevention and Resiliency**

As climate change-driven wildfires worsen each year, the City must work to prevent wildfires and ensure our City is prepared. The Committee will invite regular updates from our Fire-Rescue and Police Departments, and local Fire Safety Councils to ensure we are ready in case of a future emergency and Disaster Relief Preparedness and Response Readiness.

### **Citygate: Standards of Response Coverage Report Update**

The City of San Diego retained Citygate Associates, LLC to perform a Standards of Response Coverage review for the Fire-Rescue Department. This study included reviewing the adequacy of the current fire station resource deployment system, the risks to be protected, and the emergency incident outcomes desired by the community. The Committee will receive an update on the implementation of the recommendations made in the report.

## **Brush Management and Abatement**

The City's brush management programs are essential public safety services that our residents rely on to protect their homes, businesses, and communities. It is imperative that proactive measures are taken to prevent future fires. Last year, the City Council received a Performance Audit of the City's Brush Management on City-owned Land, which identified several recommendations to improve the City's brush management programs. The Committee will receive updates from City Departments on their progress implementing the audit recommendations.

## **Gun Violence Prevention**

### **Non-serialized "Ghost Gun" Enforcement Update**

A "ghost gun" is a term for a homemade, personally manufactured, firearm that lacks commercial serial numbers and can easily become untraceable due to the lack of serialized markings. They contain the components of a nearly complete firearm and can be assembled at home, in minutes, into a fully functional weapon.

On June 11, 2021, the San Diego Police Department delivered a report detailing information gathered on "ghost guns," reporting a detailed and alarming 169% increase in the use of "ghost guns" since 2020 in San Diego. In response, the City enacted the Eliminate Non-serialized Untraceable Firearms (ENUF) Ordinance to prohibit the possession, purchase, sale, receipt, and transportation of non-serialized, unfinished frames and unfinished receivers, and non-serialized firearms within the City of San Diego. The Committee will receive updates from SDPD and other regional partners on how enforcement of prohibited ghost guns is progressing.

### **No Shots Fired Youth Intervention Program**

In 2021, the "No Shots Fired" Youth Intervention program was launched to enhance public safety, decrease recidivism, and provide meaningful social services. This program provides a policy solution that quells violence, promotes economic justice and improves community policing relationships. The Committee will request an informational update on the program and discuss opportunities to promote similar credible messenger programs that disrupt violence.

### **Supporting the City Attorney in Funding of the Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO) Program**

Over the past few years, the City Attorney's GVRO program has proven to be an essential tool to combat gun violence in our communities. The Committee will receive an update from the City Attorney's Office on the GVRO program's successes and challenges in order to better support this critical public safety tool.

## **Additional Priorities**

### **Monitoring of the Surveillance Ordinance and the Privacy Advisory Board**

In 2022, the City Council approved the Surveillance Ordinance that established processes that encourage transparency, accountability, public deliberation, and establishes rules for the acquisition and use of surveillance technology. The Public Safety Committee will receive updates from the affected City Departments through the Annual Surveillance Report and updates on the Privacy Advisory Board's findings, results, and efficacy of the technology governed by the surveillance ordinance.

The committee should receive a presentation from SDPD on efforts to secure grants from federal, state, and regional sources to fund the purchase, installation, and operation of additional Smart Streetlights and Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPRs). This innovative technology has proven remarkably effective in enhancing public safety across San Diego, aiding in the recovery of millions in stolen property, the seizure of firearms, and assisting in resolving serious crimes, including kidnapping cases. By leveraging grant funding, the City can expand this cost-efficient program without significantly burdening the local budget, ensuring San Diegans continue to benefit from a safer, more secure community.

### **Restorative Justice**

The Public Safety Committee should continue to advocate for an increased emphasis and usage of restorative justice measures via cross-organization collaboration. The Public Safety Committee will receive updates from the City Attorney's Office (CAO) regarding their Community Justice Initiatives.

### **Cyber Security**

The City of San Diego like many government organizations is a consistent target of cyber security attacks. The Department of Information Technology works diligently to protect our City and its residents from cyber-attacks 24-hours per day, seven days per week. The Committee will hold discussions with the Department of IT to raise awareness of the risks from cyber-attacks and promote safe use of technology in the City.

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Young, at (619) 236-6655 or [ecyoung@sandiego.gov](mailto:ecyoung@sandiego.gov).