

Neighborhood Safety Ad Hoc Committee Final Report

Purpose: Identify two to three programs currently in effect and recommend how they can be more effective.

Ad Hoc Committee Members

Jim Carter	D6 Chair
Bruce Victorine	D7
Jewel Buchannan	D5
Brad Loos	D9
Richard Wong	D3

Ad Hoc Committee Meetings:

Occurrences:	4
Meeting Hours:	12
Commissioner Hours:	30
Start and End Date:	Nov 10, 2021 to March 1, 2022

Findings

Two programs were identified as working towards keeping our neighborhoods safer, the Neighborhood Watch Program and the Mobile Crisis Assessment Team(MCAT)

1. The Neighborhood Watch Program

The Neighborhood Watch Program introduces neighbors to neighbors provides those neighbors with tools to deal with issues and concerns within their neighborhood

- The city of San Jose has experienced and increase in neighborhood small petty crimes such as porch piracy, package theft and catalytic converter thefts
- The Neighborhood Watch program has been in existence for several years.
- The Neighborhood Watch program has united neighborhoods and brought neighborhoods together for a common cause.

- The neighbors have learned how to identify areas of concern and report suspicious activity by alerting the proper authorities.
- Neighbors become aware of who in their neighborhood may need assistance in a time of emergency or natural disaster.

Recommendation

It is recommended additional funding be provided to the Neighborhood Watch Program to further develop the program by increasing staffing and resources in order to involve more neighborhoods in the program.

2. The Mobile Crisis Assessment Team

The MCAT is a new concept now being incorporated by not only San Jose but by many other jurisdictions, cities and counties nationwide.

- There are currently two teams that respond during the hours of 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Teams are comprised of two or three of a law enforcement officers and a mental health professional.
- The teams can be dispatched upon determination of the call taker in dispatch or upon request of an on-scene police officer.
- The officer or dispatcher determines an individual is having a mental or emotional crisis episode and a de-escalation of the event or other than law enforcement help is needed.
- The responding Police Officer is uniformed in a light gray shirt in order to not alarm the individual who is having a mental crisis.
- The team's purpose is to deescalate the situation and provide help and assistance to the individual(s) in getting the appropriate help they need.
- Currently the program is funded by general fund and grant money

Recommendation

It is recommended additional funds be allocated to the Mobile Crisis Assessment Team program to provide more trained officers and health care professionals. The increased staffing will enable the service to be staffed on a 24/7 basis.

