PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

September 16, 2005

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 2

Action Requested: APPROVE

File Number 2001400

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS

Meeting of July 15, 2005

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Padilla (South County) at 1:10 p.m. Members introduced themselves around the table. See Attachment 1 for attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF JUNE 10, 2005 MINUTES

Upon a motion by Councilmember Anthony Young (City of San Diego) and a second by Pam Slater-Price (County of San Diego), the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved the Public Safety Committee minutes of June 10, 2005.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Steve Sawyer and Michael Tyworth from Pennsylvania State University are visiting ARJIS today and attending the Public Safety Committee as observers. They have a grant from the National Science Foundation to study integrated criminal justice. They have identified ARJIS as one of the leading places in the United States for integrated criminal justice and are doing a case study.

CONSENT ITEMS (4 AND 5)

4. FINAL REPORT ON THE REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS ASSESSMENT APPROVE (Ted Middleton)

The Public Safety Committee was asked to receive and approve the final report on the Regional Public Safety Needs Assessment.

5. AMEND THE FY 2006 OVERALL WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET APPROVE (Pam Scanlon)

The Public Safety Committee was asked to approve an amendment to the FY 2006 Overall Work Program and Budget to accept $375,000 in grant funding to develop a justice
information sharing prototype demonstrating interstate connectivity and data sharing between multijurisdictional justice information systems.

**Action:** Upon a motion by Chairwoman Slater-Price and a second by Councilmember Young, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved Consent Items Nos. 4 and 5.

### REPORTS

6. **REPORT FROM CHIEFS/SHERIFF’S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (Chief Zoll) INFORMATION**

Chief Tom Zoll (County Chiefs'/Sheriff’s Association) stated the Management Committee met on July 6, 2005. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) gave a presentation on its new website, SDRIN (San Diego Regional Intelligence Network), which gives nonclassified information and links to various law enforcement sites and related items. He recommended that the FBI give a similar demonstration to the Public Safety Committee. Other issues covered at the Management Committee meeting are being covered today.

7. **INTEROPERABILITY AND COMMUNICATIONS WORK PROGRAM (Chief Zoll) APPROVE**

Chief Zoll stated that interoperability was rated as the number one priority identified by the Needs Assessment, but that not everyone has a common understanding on what interoperability means. Some key goals of this work program include creating a better understanding what is going on at the local and federal level, developing a legislative strategy, creating a three- to five-year plan, and defining the role of the Public Safety Committee. As part of this work program workshops are proposed starting this fall.

Vice Chair Christy Guerin (North County Coastal) asked which groups would be included in these workshops.

Chief Zoll stated that the Public Safety Committee would be invited along with other elected officials and fire and police chiefs that would be interested. Once these workshops are completed, we may want to then go out and share the information with other groups.

Gary Gallegos (Executive Director, SANDAG) noted there is a fiscal challenge to making this happen, with an estimated cost of approximately $52,000. If approved, SANDAG will look for funds to accomplish this program.

**Action:** Upon a motion by Mayor Mark Lewis (East County) and a second by Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved the interoperability and communications work program.

8. **ESTIMATING ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF BORDER WAIT TIMES AT THE INFORMATION SAN DIEGO-BAJA CALIFORNIA BORDER REGION (Elisa Arias)**

Elisa Arias (SANDAG Senior Transportation Planner) gave a PowerPoint presentation on the results of a study of wait times at the San Ysidro, Otay Mesa, and Tecate borders and the economic impacts they create. More than 60 million trips cross the San Diego–Baja California border annually, with most of the trips ending at a destination in Tijuana or San Diego.
County. At today’s level of wait (45 minutes average), more than eight million trips are lost, which results in significant revenue loss to both countries. Around three-quarters of those surveyed would be willing to pay $3 to use a proposed new Otay Mesa crossing some or all of the time.

Chairwoman Slater-Price stated that in the mid-1990s Senator Feinstein proposed a $1 fee to cross the border and it was turned down.

Gary Gallegos stated a challenge for a new border crossing has been financing, but we have to help ourselves and not rely on state and federal financing.

Councilmember Young stated it was a good report, but could have gone one more step to tie into public safety. Vice Chair Guerin agreed.

Gary Gallegos stated the study was designed to look at economic impacts, but that the results were related to public safety because of the simultaneous need to maintain a secure border using the latest technology.

Mayor Lewis inquired if the Public Safety Committee has any authority related to pursuing an additional border crossing.

Vice Chair Guerin stated that the Public Safety Committee could make a recommendation to the SANDAG Board regarding an additional crossing.

Councilmember Young stated there are many issues associated with a new border crossing and will be looking forward to receiving more information on the issue.

9. SOUTHWEST REGION HIDTA ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS (Kean McAdam, INFORMATION California Border Alliance Group)

Kean McAdam gave a PowerPoint presentation on High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program. There are 28 HIDTAs in the United States. Mr. McAdam is with the Southwest Border HIDTA (San Diego and Imperial County). CBAG’s HIDTA Program was formed in 1990, and the HIDTA Board requires representation from federal, state, and local governments. Marshal David Bejarano is the Chair of CBAG. Several Public Safety Committee members are also members including Daniel Dzwilewski, Chief Richard Emerson, Sheriff William Kolender, Honorable Carol Lam, and Chief William Lansdowne.

A San Diego/Imperial County Regional Law Enforcement Coordination Center (LECC) has been proposed. This would be a multi-agency coordinating and information-sharing center in the San Diego region. Included in the project would be the San Diego/Imperial Counties Narcotics Information Network (NIN) and Watch Center, the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), FBI Field Intelligence Group, local Intelligence Units (from local police departments), State Criminal Intelligence Bureau (CIB), Federal Intelligence Units (ICE, DEA, USBP), and San Diego County Terrorism Early Warning (TEW) Group. The LECC would network with the Imperial County LECC and the Sector Command Center also known as the Joint Harbor Operations Center (JHOC). San Diego Regional Terrorism Threat Analysis Center (a state program) and the Intelligence Fusion Center (gives federal intelligence information on
homeland security to the departments in San Diego) would also be included. Funding has been identified with HIDTA and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grants and the FBI has stated it will pay the rent for at least 10 years. At the present time, a 65,000 square foot building located on Ruffin Road is proposed. If all goes well, the LECC could be operational by the end of the year.

10. REQUEST FOR SANDAG TO TAKE A POSITION ON PRIVATE CITIZEN DISCUSSION/ BORDER PATROL ACTIVITIES IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY (Chair Steve Padilla) POSSIBLE ACTION

Enrique Morones, President and Founder of the Border Angels, described his group’s history and asked that SANDAG take a position against vigilante groups, noting that not taking a position is in effect taking a position. Kristin Smith, member of Gente Unida, noted that it is important to tell vigilante groups they are not welcome.

Chair Padilla introduced Luis Cabrera Cuaron, Consul General of Mexico. Consul General Cabrera thanked the committee for the invitation to share with the committee concerns his country has with these groups. These include individuals acting without authority and taking the law into their own hands and potential violations or abuses that can occur. He recognized the support of these groups first in Arizona and California.

Councilmember Young stated he is very concerned about the security of our borders and the need for a solution to our immigration issues. He also noted that it is not acceptable for untrained individuals to detain others, and we need to ensure trained law enforcement officers have the tools they need to do their jobs. He noted the Public Safety Committee has the opportunity to make a strong statement and that we do not need individuals who are not border agents protecting our border.

Mayor Lewis stated that we should acknowledge people have a constitutional right to congregate. He also noted that we need to be aware that other groups ask for SANDAG’s support, and we should be aware of setting precedents.

Councilman Ron Newman (North County Inland) stated that when the Public Safety Committee was formed, it was to support the Chiefs and Sheriff. He asked if local law enforcement has taken a position on this issue.

Marshal David Bejarano (Federal Public Safety) noted that the San Diego County Police Chiefs’ and Sheriff’s Association held a press conference and released a statement on the issue. Their position is that individuals who are obeying the law have a right to be in public places, that law enforcement is responsible for protecting the rights of all individuals, and that local agencies will reallocate resources as necessary to protect all individuals involved.

Councilmember Young asked Marshal Bejarano if additional resources are being allocated because of these activities and noted that these resources could be utilized in other areas.

Chief Zoll noted other key components of the statement, including local law enforcement’s absolute support for the Border Patrol and its activities, that the topic of illegal immigration is a political issue at the national level, that we may have to allocate additional resources to
comply with mission of protecting public safety, and that law enforcement will not tolerate lawlessness of any kind.

Chairwoman Slater-Price stated the tragedy is that we do not have a clearly defined leadership position on the issue at the highest levels of government and that local jurisdictions are faced with issues they do not have the authority to address. People on both sides of this issue have the right to assemble and share their points of view. Over the years numerous groups have approached SANDAG, asking the Board to take a position despite fact that SANDAG is governed by rules limiting what issues can be addressed. Chairwoman Slater-Price made the motion that the Public Safety Committee support the Border Protocol issued by the San Diego County Police Chiefs’ and Sheriff’s Association.

Vice Chair Guerin noted that she appreciated everyone’s comments, that this is a very complicated issue, and that she is comfortable that the Chiefs and Sheriff have gotten together to release this statement. Hate crimes do not just occur at the border, they occur in all of our communities and in many different ways. It is important that any violations of the law are addressed, not just those committed by a certain group or individual. Vice Chair Guerin expressed her agreement that we support the position our law enforcement agencies have taken.

Barbara Jean Harris (ARJIS Administrative Aide) read the Chiefs’ and Sheriff’s complete statement for the record:

The following statement is issued by the San Diego County Chiefs’ and Sheriff’s Association on behalf of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies whose jurisdictions include the border area within San Diego County.

The United States Border Patrol of U.S. Customs and Border Protection is responsible for securing the international border between the ports of entry, and their agents do an outstanding job of enforcing our nation’s immigration laws in this Sector. The local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies within San Diego County have a close working relationship with the Border Patrol of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The chief law enforcement officers regularly communicate about enforcement issues of mutual interest in the border area.

As “Operation Border Watch” begins, San Diego County law enforcement agencies recognize that there are differences of opinion about immigration within our community. The topic of illegal immigration is currently the subject of heated national debate, and we are mindful of the potential for increased tension within the coming weeks and months. We respect the First Amendment guarantees of free speech and free expression, and we remain committed to preserving the peace as immigration issues are debated within our community. The San Diego County law enforcement agencies anticipate that it may be necessary to reallocate resources to provide not only for the safety of local residents of our community, but also for those who participate in “Operation Border Watch” as well as those who protest in opposition.

The San Diego County law enforcement agencies encourage everyone on all sides of the immigration debate to maintain civility and nonviolence throughout “Operation Border Watch.” Under no circumstances will hate crimes or any other
violations of law be tolerated. As always, we encourage members of our community to report suspicious or criminal activity for appropriate action by law enforcement professionals.

Chief William Lansdowne (County Chiefs’ and Sheriff’s Association) stated that in many instances, law enforcement may have to defend groups they aren’t comfortable with. He also asked if the Public Safety Committee would make a recommendation to the Board or issue its own statement.

Julie Wiley (SANDAG Deputy General Council) stated that if this committee wanted to take a formal written position, the position letter or statement could come from ARJIS. If a formal written position was desired from SANDAG, the Committee could make a recommendation to the SANDAG Board, and the SANDAG Board would have to take action.

Mayor Lewis expressed that he thought it was the Public Safety Committee’s task to make a statement.

Councilmember Anthony Young stated he agrees with Chairwoman Slater-Price statement. He felt that it should also include: “This committee believes that our established and well-trained law-enforcement personnel are best qualified to protect the San Diego border with Mexico.”

Vice Chair Guerin stated that in listening to Councilmember Young’s statement, it was not wrong or different from the Chiefs’ and Sheriff’s statement. She would consider that his statement preface the border protocol statement.

Chair Padilla believes it is good language and should be able to incorporate it easily into any statement that is made.

Mr. Morones thanked the committee for discussing this issue and noted that SANDAG’s mission statement allows the agency to take positions on topics pertinent to the region’s quality of life. Noting that this is definitely pertinent to the region’s quality of life, he also said that it is very important that we become educated about these issues. Latinos are being targeted, and no one can tell whether a person is documented or not.

Chair Padilla stated he can support the Chiefs’ and Sheriff’s statement, but feels it could be stronger and that he doesn’t have any doubt that this is a matter of public safety, not just for those that are crossing the border illegally, but also for our own citizens. He feels the SANDAG Board of Directors has a responsibility individually to go back to their City Council and make statements.

Dave Druker (Alternate, North County Coastal) stated he is sure the City of Del Mar would be supportive of the position.

Action: Upon a motion by Chairwoman Slater-Price and a second by Chief Zoll, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved supporting the Border Protocol issued by San Diego County Police Chiefs’ and Sheriff’s Association on July 14, 2005 with the inclusion of the statement that the Public Safety Committee believes that established and well-
trained law enforcement personnel are best qualified to protect the San Diego region’s border with Mexico.

11. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The August 19, 2005, Public Safety Committee was cancelled. The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Friday, September 16, 2005, at 1 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Padilla adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

JEFF TAYMAN
Director of Technical Services

Key Staff Contacts: Pam Scanlon, (619) 699-6971, psc@sandag.org
Cynthia Burke, (619) 699-1910, cbu@sandag.org
# PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
## CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE
### July 15, 2005

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<tr>
<th>JURISDICTION</th>
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<td>South County</td>
<td>Hon. Steve Padilla</td>
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<td>Hon. Frank Parra</td>
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<td>Hon. Christy Guerin</td>
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## ADVISORY MEMBERS

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