PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS
Meeting of October 21, 2005

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Padilla (South County) at 1:10 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present. See last page for attendance. Chair Padilla welcomed students from San Diego State University’s Criminal Justice Program.

2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2005, MEETING MINUTES

Upon a motion by Councilmember Anthony Young (City of San Diego) and a second by Mayor Mark Lewis (East County), the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved the Public Safety Committee minutes of September 16, 2005.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

REPORTS

4. REPORT FROM CHIEFS/SHERIFF’S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (INFORMATION)

Chief Rick Emerson (County Chiefs/Sheriff’s Association) reported on the October 5, 2005, meeting of the Management Committee. At the meeting, there was discussion of the San Diego County Law Enforcement Center and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference in Miami, Florida. The IACP Conference offered an opportunity to showcase the public safety technology and information sharing in our region that is a model other areas would like to replicate.

Chief Emerson noted that the Management Committee had a presentation on the mid-year crime trends that will also be presented at today’s meeting. The Committee also had a presentation on the Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking of sex offenders. The pilot project will ultimately track and monitor 500 of California’s 290 sex offender registrants using a GPS ankle device.
Mayor Lewis inquired if someone is monitoring the sex offenders. Chief Emerson noted that State Parole has individuals monitoring the information during daytime hours. The Chief also mentioned there may be opportunities to use this system in other areas (tracking cars, etc.).

5. 2006 LEGISLATIVE GOALS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY (RECOMMEND)

Chair Padilla stated this is an opportunity to forward recommendations to the Executive Committee for inclusion of public safety goals in the 2006 SANDAG legislative program. He noted that the PSC has made progress in identifying regional needs for public safety and the top priority is regional interoperability and communications.

Gary Gallegos (SANDAG Executive (Director) stated that SANDAG has retained the lobbying services of Blank Roam, a firm with a strong connection to Homeland Security. Staff and the PSC leadership will meet with these lobbyists to discuss our public safety priorities and will then have them discuss potential opportunities with the Committee.

Councilmember Young stated that the PSC has done a very good job in dealing with the issue of homeland security and interoperability. He noted that youth violence and gang issues are also of regional significance. Elected officials across the region are having trouble finding resources and identifying policies that will help address this problem.

Mayor Lewis concurred with Councilmember Young and also suggested that transportation funding be considered to help address safety issues related to public transit.

Supervisor Cox (County of San Diego) agreed with the comments of Councilmember Young and Mayor Lewis. He noted on Goal #1, it is the League of California Cities instead of the California League of Cities. On Goal #2, he suggested to include and coordinate with the California State Association of Counties, California Police Chief’s Association, and the California State Sheriff’s Association. He feels strongly that communication should be the primary item when talking about funding coming through homeland security, and that joint purchasing should be pursued, which might provide for more cost effective acquisition of public safety equipment and technology. Supervisor Cox mentioned the National Association of Counties released a report last July stating that methamphetamine is the biggest drug problem in the United States. He suggested that we should also look at the peripheral issues that lead people into gangs and into prisons and jails.

Councilmember Dave Druker (North County Coastal) stated that emergency preparedness should part be of the legislative goals and we should seek funds in this area.

Mayor Lewis inquired if there was a way to legislatively mandate that if a person goes to jail and tests positive for drugs, six months would be added to the jail sentence.

Chief Emerson responded that if a person is arrested for a charge like burglary, drug tests are not necessarily given. The Substance Abuse Monitoring (SAM) Program run by SANDAG tests for drug use of those already in custody, and provides valuable information to help address drug-related issues in the San Diego region.
Vice Chair Guerin (North County Coastal) believes that officers feel that 80 percent of the people they arrest are under the influence. She stated that she would like to find out what is happening in terms of reducing gang violence in the San Diego region. Specifically, what programs/activities are currently in place and what are the additional needs. She also stated our legislative goals should include emergency preparedness, but reiterated that the goal related to interoperability and communications is the Committee’s top priority.

Councilmember Jill Hanson-Cox (East County) stated she mentors people from 13 to 26 years old. Gang members are usually involved with drugs and she suggested that screening kids for drugs in school may be a useful strategy for reducing their involvement in gangs.

Chair Padilla stressed the need to go to the next step in this process of developing a legislative program. His goal is to utilize the unique structure of the PSC to facilitate, promote, and help implement a collaborative, agreed-upon regional strategic interoperability/communications strategy and other priorities to enhance public safety in the region. Chair Padilla recommended that based on the discussion, SANDAG staff revise the legislative goals and bring them back to the next PSC meeting for approval.

Mayor Lewis made a motion for SANDAG staff to incorporate the comments from the Chair and Committee members and bring back the goals to the November 18th meeting for approval. Supervisor Cox seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

6. CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL AGENCY OVERVIEW (INFORMATION)

Chief Skip Carter (California Highway Patrol) gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the California Highway Patrol (CHP). The CHP is a department within the Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency. Its primary responsibility is providing traffic safety and service to the motoring public as they use the state’s highway transportation system. As a statewide criminal justice agency, the CHP also provides law enforcement assistance to local governments and allied agencies when situations exceed the limits of local resources.

Councilmember Hanson-Cox inquired as to whether collisions caused by someone driving under the influence were more likely alcohol or drug related. Chief Carter did not have these statistics, but will provide them to the Councilmember. He did note the main cause of traffic collisions is speed.

7. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BORDER PATROL MAPPING (INFORMATION)

Due to technical difficulties, Daniel Isenberg will return with his presentation at the next Committee meeting.

8. 2005 MID-YEAR CRIME TRENDS IN THE SAN DIEGO REGION (INFORMATION)

Sandy Keaton (Senior Criminal Justice Analyst) gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2005 mid-year crime trends for the San Diego region and jurisdictions, covering statistics from January to June. Robbery was the only violent crime to increase in 2005, while homicide decreased significantly. There was a 12 percent increase in motor vehicle theft, but decreases in burglary and larceny.
Mayor Lewis asked if a person is assaulted and robbed, is it listed as a robbery, assault, or a combination?

Chief Emerson stated that if something is taken from a person, the more serious crime is reported, which would be robbery in that scenario.

9. **UPCOMING MEETINGS (INFORMATION)**

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for November 18, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. Please note, the Public Safety Committee will meet in the 7th floor conference room at SANDAG.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.
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