TO: Mayor and Council through City Manager

FROM: Albert A. Ortiz, Chief of Police

COPIES TO: File

SUBJECT: “B” Session – Crime Control and Prevention District

DATE: September 23, 2004

The Texas Local Government Code Chapter 363 allows for the creation of a Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) by a municipality. The Code further allows that the CCPD be funded by an increase in municipal sales tax. The purpose is to enhance City law enforcement agencies and crime prevention programs.

In 1997, the Greater San Antonio Crime Prevention Commission (SACPC) created an ad hoc committee to study the feasibility of initiating a CCPD in San Antonio. In 2003, the SACPC with the assistance of the University of Texas at San Antonio conducted a survey of voting citizens. The results showed that 78.5% of respondents would be willing to increase the sales tax by 1/8 of a cent if the funds were dedicated for improvement of public safety. In April 2003, the SACPC presented a CCPD proposal to the City Council Quality of Life Committee. This was followed in August of 2004 with a presentation to the City Council Governance Committee. It was the recommendation of the Governance Committee that the proposal be forwarded to City Council “B” session on September 23, 2004.

The CCPD proposal follows the example of 25 other Texas cities that have instituted Crime Control Districts within their communities. A CCPD is renewed in five-year increments and is estimated to generate approximately 18.6 million in the first year. The current CCPD proposal seeks to enhance acquisition of personnel, new equipment, and technology for the police department in order to enhance crime prevention and enforcement strategies in the area of domestic violence, juvenile crime and enhance feelings of safety for citizens in neighborhoods, commercial areas, parks and public facilities.

The CCPD proposal recommends program safeguards to include:

- City Council appointment of CCPD members;
- City Council approval of CCPD plan and budget;
- CCPD five-year funding will cover the cost of personnel and equipment maintenance for a ten-year period;
- Annual audit of all finances, and
- No obligation to continue funding of any program created by the CCPD.

The CCPD proposed timelines recommend the Mayor and Council appoint an 11 member temporary board during October 2004, a call for election scheduled for February 17, 2005, with the election to be held May 7, 2005. The creation of the CCPD is intended to foster a continued positive and cooperative relationship between the City of San Antonio and the citizens of our community while minimizing the impact on the budget.

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