



CITY OF SANTA ANA

Councilmember-Requested Item

Date

July 18, 2023

Topic

Addressing public intoxication through detention and service offerings.

Title

Intoxication Detention and Service Offering Policy

Discussion

Existing State Law allows police to detain individuals who are found in any public place under the influence of intoxicating liquor, any drug, and/or controlled substance, in a condition that they are unable to exercise care for their own safety or the safety of others, or interferes with or obstructs or prevents the free use of any street, sidewalk, or other public way, per California Penal Code Section 647(f), and a person that uses, or is under the influence of specific controlled substances that are listed within Health and Safety Code Sections 11054-11057.

There is also a need to enhance the ability to offer potentially life-saving services to individuals with substance abuse issues throughout Santa Ana.

I am proposing that the City Council direct the City Manager to have Santa Ana Police Officers consistently detain any individuals within Santa Ana who violate those existing state laws and transport them to the Santa Ana Jail for processing, and prior to release, provide them with information on available substance-abuse treatment services.

I am also proposing that the City Manager work with Santa Ana Police Department to provide the necessary medical staff at the Santa Ana Jail to minimize the use of hospital emergency rooms and improve efficiency in Santa Ana Police patrol operations' ability to consistently and effectively enforce state laws related to public intoxication.

Finally, when possible and before they leave the Santa Ana Jail, I am proposing that detained individuals who are not from Santa Ana be offered transportation to their home to reunite them with family.

This proposal addresses the issue of widespread substance abuse in Santa Ana with accountability and compassion.

Submitted By

Councilmember Phil Bacerra