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**SAPOA OPPOSES ANNEXATION PLANS
STAFFING AND RESPONSE TIMES AT DANGEROUS LEVELS**

SAN ANTONIO, TX— The San Antonio Police Officers Association (SAPOA) is **opposed to any City of San Antonio annexation plans** based on manpower requirements and police response times.

Here are the key statistics:

1. The San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) is **UNDERSTAFFED** by 183 police officers.
2. Annexing up to 66.9 square miles of land and over 218,000 citizens will require, at a minimum, **an additional 165 police officers**.
3. SAPD cannot find enough qualified applicants to fill any cadet class. In fact, a recent City media outreach for applicants was met with poor attendance and minimal applications.
4. In an effort to beg for more applicants, City leadership, led by City Manager Sheryl Sculley, has proposed relaxing standards for applicants to **allow for an increased history of drug usage, to include heroin and cocaine**. Add the current attacks on police officers across the country and by our own City Council against first responders, and you realize people are thinking twice about a law enforcement career.
5. **Response times across the City have increased over 2014**. Response times are getting worse as staffing levels dwindle. The only reason response times aren't at catastrophic levels is because the City is pouring **hundreds of thousands of dollars into overtime on every shift**.

Michael Helle, President of SAPOA, had the following statement, "Its mind boggling to imagine the City proposing to annex additional communities when they do not have enough police officers to handle the land and citizens they have now. Its dangerous and frankly, it puts every citizen's life in jeopardy. Our officers continue to face an ever-increasing demand for service to a continually growing City. Believe me, they do so proudly, but with dwindling resources and shrinking staffing levels. Unfortunately, the citizens of this City pay the price with delayed and limited responses to their needs. City leadership must abandon their plan to annex more land and focus on the safety of the community they have now. We should be doing all we can to build a quality police force, the best in the country, not finding ways to destroy our law enforcement and jeopardize the public's safety with wildly unpopular plans that violate the public trust."

To learn more, go to www.publicsafetyfacts.com.

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