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“FIX SAPD” LYING TO THE PUBLIC

Activists misleads public with fake stats and lie about Chief’s support.

SAN ANTONIO, TX, OCTOBER 19, 2020 - Anti-Police Activists with “FIX SAPD” are collecting signatures for a referendum that would strip San Antonio police officers of their rights and protections. Knowing that the people of San Antonio overwhelmingly support police, these activists have been misleading the public and even lying about Chief McManus’ support for their effort by fabricating quotes.

In their effort to repeal Chapters 143 and 174 of the Texas Government Code (Civil Service and Collective Bargaining respectively) activists are saying that repeal of these laws is necessary because “78%” of fired police officers are returned to duty because of arbitration, making San Antonio “number one in the country.”¹ This is a lie and has been proven to be false in a study by the *San Antonio Express-News*.²

“FIX SAPD” is also lying about the Chief’s support for their effort, misquoting the Chief on their website and in literature distributed to voters. In a column posted on September 23, 2020 on The San Antonio Observer website, “FIX SAPD” activist and supporter Mario Salas said:

“According to Police Chief William McManus, ‘There’s two laws that pertain to collective bargaining... (174 and 143) those need to go.’” Salas also quotes the Chief as saying, “Accountability is dissolved through arbitration.”

Through a spokesman, Chief McManus disputes the authenticity of these quotes. When SAPOA inquired with the Chief directly about whether he stood by these comments or whether he was being misquoted, SAPD’s Public Information Officer, Lt. Jesse Salame said:

“Negative....he’s said repeatedly that his only issue is with certain sections of Art 28, specifically the arbitrator reversing a termination on a non-fact issue. He’s said he supports the CBA [Collective Bargaining Agreement] as a whole and has not said anything direct about repealing 143/174 to my knowledge. I don’t know when/where they have the quote you are referencing but they say lots of stuff that’s not factually correct. I’ll look into it.”

Clearly, the Chief did not say 143 and 174 “need to go” as activists are proclaiming and his spokesperson says directly that “they say lots of stuff that’s not factually correct.” If “FIX SAPD” was confident in their message to San Antonio voters, they would not have to resort to lying about the facts.

¹ Texas Public Radio “The Source,” Interview with Oji Martin, 10/6/2020.

² “Arbitrators excuse allegations of racism in police,” San Antonio Express-News, June 19, 2020.

Sources:



FIXSAPD San Antonio Police Department

Good Officers Don't Need These Laws: Chapters 174 and 143

According to Police Chief William McManus, "There's two laws that pertain to collective bargaining . . . (174 and 143) those need to go." This quote that appeared in the San Antonio Express News speaks to the fact that over 103 people have died while in police custody over a ten year period and more than 70% of the police officers terminated as a result of these abuses of power have been rehired through a set-up that the San Antonio Police Officers Association (SAPOA) calls "Arbitration." This set-up allows the police association to by-pass the civilian advisory board and the legal system to have officers rehired after the police chief fires them. Police Chief McManus went on to say that, "Accountability is dissolved through arbitration."

https://saobserver.com/good-officers-dont-need-these-laws/?fbclid=IwAR3ERnkxP95vP91XbER-f_Blp_EHoGYPgeNd4ih0cA2UxcDp01FWw0DuHvFQ

A campaign poster for "FIX SAPD" featuring a background image of the Tower of the Americas. The poster has several text boxes: a yellow box at the top with "HOLD POLICE ACCOUNTABLE"; a dark red box on the left with text about San Antonians voting and Bexar County support; a light pink box on the right with text about making sure good cops stay and bad cops go; a dark purple speech bubble at the bottom with a quote from Police Chief William McManus; and a yellow box at the bottom with "SIGN THE PETITION AT FIXSAPD.ORG".

“FIX SAPD” Campaign Literature.

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