

## **East Side leaders hold newly-elected council member accountable on promise to tackle crime**

by Darian Trotter, Fox San Antonio



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On the campaign trail, William Cruz Shaw promised he would address crime centered around an east side neighborhood bar if elected.

Neighborhood leaders recently met with the newly-elected councilman for a progress report.

"We're just really speaking up for the neighborhood the kind of neighborhood we want our children to grow up in," said Pastor Geoffrey Stirrup.

Pastor Geoffrey Stirrup leads the charge in holding newly-elected Councilman William Cruz Shaw accountable.

Back in March he hosted a candidate forum at his east side church, Dominion Church of God in Christ.

Shaw was one of three candidates who promised if elected to tackle crime near Skinny's Place Bar.

Days ago community leaders called a meeting with Shaw for an update.

"I mean hold me accountable that's why I'm in this position," Shaw said, "If I say something that I don't do then hold me accountable."

SAPD records show officers have been called to Skinny's twelve times this year. That's an average of twice a month for disturbances; including a suspicious person with a gun, and two drug calls.

"This is what we're talking about," Stirrup said. "I've been pastor of this church for 29 years and we've seen this and we've seen things take place police maybe weren't even called about."

Shaw says he's set up a meeting with the business owner, and has had several conversations about crime in the area with police.

But he says problems there go well beyond the bar.

"It's very complex and its around that area," Shaw said. "So removing that building or that business will not just eliminate crime."

Bottom line. He needs more time.

"We'll give him a chance he's only in there less than a month," said Sister Gabriella Lohan. "But he did say he'd work towards doing this and we will hold his feet to the fire and that's why we had a meeting with him the other day."

In a statement, an SAPD spokesperson said, "Officers are working with community leaders, church and advocacy groups to holistically address the issues that have plagued the area."

"I would like to hear something more definitive how are you working on it what are you doing what kind of time table do you have," Stirrup said.

When asked about Shaw's progress at this early stage, neighborhood leaders agreed they're satisfied and are looking forward to the outcome.

"I'm satisfied this is one of his priorities he did show us that he did demonstrate to us this is a priority," Shaw said.

Neighborhood leaders say they aren't giving up on Councilman Shaw.

Instead they are trying to be patient and give him more time. They hope to follow up with him in a couple of months for a progress report.