

**THIS IS A PROPOSED DRAFT AND WILL BE REPLACED BY THE FINAL,  
SIGNED ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL.**

**AN ORDINANCE**

**AUTHORIZING THE NAMING THE SAN ANTONIO NATATORIUM  
TO ATANACIO GARCIA NATATORIUM, LOCATED AT 1430 W  
CESAR E. CHAVEZ BLVD IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 5.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**WHEREAS**, Atanacio Garcia was a man deeply committed to both his community and his country. His life was marked by service and a strong dedication to improving the lives of others. As a retired Army veteran and postal worker, Garcia's civic engagement spanned several decades, with his most significant achievement being his role in establishing the San Antonio Natatorium, a public swimming pool located in the West Side of San Antonio; and

**WHEREAS**, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, Garcia recognized the need for a community swimming pool. The West Side had a large youth population but lacked access to recreational swimming or the opportunity to train for competitive events. At the time, the nearest pools were miles away, making them out of reach for many families; and

**WHEREAS**, his involvement with community advancement and civil rights goes back to the 1968 Edgewood walkout when he and a group of Edgewood high school seniors staged a walkout to highlight the conditions and discrimination in their school. The historic walkout prompted a generational change in the state educational system; and

**WHEREAS**, as a retired postal worker, Garcia knew the power of community involvement and took the initiative to organize efforts to build a state-of-the-art facility; and

**WHEREAS**, through his efforts with Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and COPS/Metro Alliance, his organizing resulted in the opening of the San Antonio Natatorium in June 1981—an Olympic-sized pool designed to benefit local children and families; and

**WHEREAS**, Garcia faced significant challenges in bringing this vision to life. At the time, the West Side was often overlooked by City Hall, and the idea of building a pool in the area was seen as ambitious, even unrealistic. Nevertheless, Garcia's determination, combined with support from local organizations like COPS/Metro Alliance, ultimately led to the project's success. His relentless advocacy and ability to rally community support through petitions convinced the City of the need for such a facility; and

**WHEREAS**, beyond his work with the natatorium, Garcia's dedication to his community never wavered. He was a constant presence on the West Side, often helping elderly residents with transportation or helping in other ways. Even in retirement, Garcia remained deeply involved in his

neighborhood taking regular walks around Lanier High School to collect recyclables and clean up litter. His life is a testament to the values of civic duty and service, and his contributions continue to inspire those who strive to make a difference in their communities. Atanacio Garcia passed away on March 6, 2014, at the age of 86, but his impact on San Antonio and beyond remains a lasting example of dedication and leadership. Garcia is a cherished figure in District 5, and his influence on our community is undeniable. Renaming the San Antonio Natatorium to the Atanacio Garcia Natatorium will serve as a lasting tribute to his unwavering commitment to San Antonio and his lifelong dedication to improving the lives of those around him; and

**WHEREAS**, staff followed the naming process in accordance with Ordinance No. 2011-03-31-0239. A committee was established to hold a public hearing on this proposal. The committee consisted of Rose Araujo-Iracheta, Community Representative selected by Councilmember Teri Castillo, Council District 5, and Nikki Ramos, Assistant Director of the Parks and Recreation Department. Notification was mailed to those within a fourteen hundred (1400) foot radius of the San Antonio Natatorium. Publication was placed in the San Antonio Express-News, San Antonio Report, SA Speak Up, e-blast to the Parks and Recreation Department's 4,500 subscribers, and District 5 communication platforms. Based on the responses received from the public notice mailout and both in-person and written comments, 38 notices were in favor of the proposed naming, and 2 notices were in opposition. Following public input, the public hearing concluded with the committee recommending moving forward to the City Council naming the San Antonio Natatorium to the Atanacio Garcia Natatorium.

**NOW THEREFORE:**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:**

**SECTION 1.** The City Manager or designee, or the Director of Parks and Recreation or designee is authorized to approve of the naming the San Antonio Natatorium to Atanacio Garcia Natatorium, located at 1430 W Cesar E. Chavez Blvd in Council District 5.

**SECTION 2.** There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

**SECTION 3.** No fiscal ordinance language required.

**SECTION 4.** This Ordinance is effective immediately upon the receipt of eight affirmative votes; otherwise, it is effective ten days after passage.

**PASSED AND APPROVED this 20th day of March, 2025.**

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Ron Nirenberg

**ATTEST:**

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Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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Andrew Segovia, City Attorney

DRAFT