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COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST

TO: Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk

FROM: Councilmember Marina Alderete Gavito, Council District 7

COPIES: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Andy Segovia, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Lowering Prima Facie Speed Limits in the City and Improving Safety on Neighborhood Streets

DATE: Wednesday, January 29, 2025

Issue for Proposed Consideration

After coordinating this Council Consideration Request (CCR) with the City Manager, I respectfully request for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

Requesting consideration of Lowering Prima Facie Speed Limits in the City and Improving Safety on Neighborhood Streets.

Brief Background

An urgent issue in District 7 and throughout the City of San Antonio is the persistent reckless and unsafe driving we see in our neighborhoods. Through numerous studies and efforts, recommendations have been made that consistently advocate for lowering speed limits in our city. Just recently, the City of San Antonio adopted new policies for both our Vision Zero and Complete Streets plans, which push for safer conditions on our roads for both vehicles and pedestrians.

In the Vision Zero policy, numerous High Injury Network corridors throughout our city remain dangerous and unimproved. In District 7, two identified priority corridors are located at Callaghan Road and Culebra Road, where there have been historically high severe crashes and pedestrian fatalities. From 2019 to 2023, these two roads had nine severe crashes and four fatal

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crashes. Ten of these cases were pedestrian-involved crashes where speeding was one of the factors of the accident.[1]

Additionally, in our Complete Streets policy, safer roads for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers can be achieved by lowering speed limits. Studies conducted by the National Traffic Safety Board show there is a significantly lower chance of fatality when speed limits go down.[2] Specifically, at 40 miles per hour there's an 85% chance that a pedestrian fatality will occur. That number goes down to 45% at 30 miles per hour, and 5% at 20 miles per hour.

Request

I am requesting that the City of San Antonio amend its prima facie speed limit minimums on San Antonio neighborhood streets from 30 to 25 miles per hour, which is the current minimum that municipalities are allowed to request under State Law.[3]

To ensure expeditious improvements in safety of pedestrians and drivers in our city, I am also requesting the following actions be taken immediately:

1. Prioritizing speed limit changes for neighborhood streets within a quarter-mile radius of schools, community centers, and parks.

2. Funding, fabrication, and placement of new speed limit signage within those priority areas.

3. Heightening enforcement in those identified areas.

4. Formalizing an initiative for the City's Government Relations team to support legislation that would change state code to allow municipalities to have flexibility with traffic engineering criteria used to permit changes to speed limits.

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[1] "Vision Zero SA Action Plan." *Vision Zero SA Action Plan - PublicInput*, www.saspeakup.com/VisionZeroSA.
[2] National Traffic Safety Board (2017) Reducing Speeding-Related Crashes Involving Passenger Vehicles. Available from: https://www.ntsb.gov/safety/safety-studies/Documents/SS1701.pdf
[3] "Texas Transportation Code." *Transportation Code Chapter 545. Operation and Movement of Vehicles*, statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/TN/htm/TN.545.htm#545.356.

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Submitted for Council consideration by: _____

Councilmember Marina Alderete Gavito

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (exactly 4)   District

1. _____   D9

2. _____   D10

3. _____   D5

4. _____   D2