



HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGES AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 33



**City Council A Session
December 12, 2024**

Rick Riley, San Antonio Police Department Assistant Director

City Council Consideration Request (CCR) Background

- Submitted by Councilmembers McKee-Rodriguez and Viagran on November 28, 2022
- Development of a plan to phase out the use of horses with horse drawn carriages in San Antonio, to include the abolishment of ordinance(s) or policies as they relate to Chapter 33 permitting equine drawn carriages. Plan would include:
 - Determination of the feasibility and establishment of a program to support a workforce transition from horse-drawn carriages to electric carriages and pedicabs;
 - The establishment of a prohibition of the use of horses with carriage rides; and Immediate cessation of the issuance of all new horse-drawn carriage permits, medallions, and/or Special Event Permits so that eventually all valid permits, medallions, and/or Special Event Permits have expired

CCR TIMELINE 2024

April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CCR heard by Governance Committee and referred to Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transportation Advisory Board discussed CCR and heard from Horse Carriage Business Owners and Operators
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff briefed Transportation & Infrastructure Committee• SAPD met with Horse Carriage companies• Transportation Advisory Board discussed CCR
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• C&E conducted SA SpeakUp Survey (residents, business and tourists)• Staff briefed Animal Care Services Board
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff updated Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic Development Department met with Horse Carriage Business Owners
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ready-to-Work Department met with Horse Carriage Drivers• October 31, 2024 Council briefed at Special Session

TODAY'S RECOMMENDATION

- Based on feedback received at the October 31st City Council Briefing, a 3-year Transition Plan to phase out horse-drawn carriages

CITY CODE AMENDMENTS

- Horse-drawn carriages will cease to operate in San Antonio on January 1, 2028
- Operating hours reduced annually until prohibition takes effect
- Effective December 12, 2024:
 - No new permits to operate horse-drawn carriages will be issued
 - No new horses will be licensed by ACS



TRANSITION PLAN

REDUCTION OF OPERATION HOURS

Current – May 31, 2025	June 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026	June 1, 2026 – December 31, 2027
<u>Monday – Friday</u> 9:00 am – 4:00 pm 6:00 pm – 2:00 am	<u>Monday – Friday</u> 11:00 am – 4:00 pm 8:00 pm – 2:00 am	<u>Monday – Friday</u> 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm 8:00 pm – 12:00 am
<u>Saturday – Sunday</u> 10:00 am – 2:00 am	<u>Saturday – Sunday</u> 2:00 pm – 2:00 am	<u>Saturday – Sunday</u> 5:00 pm – 2:00 am
<u>City Holidays</u> 10:00 am – 2:00 am	<u>City Holidays</u> 2:00 pm – 2:00 am	<u>City Holidays</u> 5:00 pm – 2:00 am

Operating hours are reduced by 20% each year

HORSE CARRIAGE BUSINESS TRANSITION

The Economic Development Department will assist business owners navigate programs available:

- Launch SA, to assist with business plan development
- LiftFund to explore Zero Percent Interest Loan eligibility



CARRIAGE OPERATORS/WORKER TRANSITION

- Workforce Development Office will schedule resource fairs monthly and coordinate to connect carriage operators with local workforce partners and education institutions
- Fairs will focus on increasing awareness of City's Ready to Work Program.
 - Present programs that match workers interest and ability.
 - Guides workers interested in education or training including tuition support.
 - Support from job placement specialists at the end of training.



RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends City Council approval of amendments to Chapter 33 of the City Code:

- The use of horses with horse-drawn carriages in San Antonio will cease to operate on January 1, 2028.
- Operating hours of horse-drawn carriage will be reduced annually until the prohibition of horse carriage operations takes effect on January 1, 2028
- No new permits to operate horse-drawn carriages will be issued effective December 12, 2024
- The Animal Care Services Department will not license new horses to be used for horse-drawn carriages effective December 12, 2024.



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