



# Bird Sanctuary Designation

Item 7

# COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST

Submitted March 11, 2024, by Council District 7

## Background

- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) makes available a community focused certification, known as the Bird City Texas program, which focuses on the protection of native birds and their habitat. To achieve this certification, specific criteria must be met. Locally, the Bexar Audubon Society (BAS) and the San Antonio Bird City Texas Collaborative Body worked together to achieve this certification for San Antonio in 2021. The certification requires a commitment in three (3) different areas - Community Engagement, Habitat Enhancement and Protection, and Creation of Safer Spaces for Birds.
- **As a non-native species, peafowl are considered “exotic fowl” by Texas Parks and Wildlife and are not subject the to Federal Migratory Bird Act.**
  - As such, there are limited regulations for peafowl and they are not afforded the same protections as native species. Since they are also considered wildlife, the Animal Care Services (ACS) Department does not address issues with peafowl unless it is a cruelty-related matter or if the peafowl is injured.
- **Currently, in San Antonio, it is unlawful to abuse or cruelly treat peafowl, use inhumane traps, sell peafowl in public places, or hunt wild peafowl in public spaces or on private property without the owner’s permission. It is allowable to feed, hunt, humanely trap, and sell on one’s private property with proper permits from the City.**

# **COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**



## **Request**

- The CCR request is intended to not adversely impact operational practices on public property consistent with regulatory guidelines. Additionally, review limited regulation of peafowl.

# **Staff Recommendation**



- Staff recommends referring this item to the Public Safety Committee.