

**State of Texas
County of Bexar
City of San Antonio**



**Meeting Minutes
Public Comment Session**

Municipal Plaza Building
114 W. Commerce Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205

2023 – 2025 Council Members

Mayor Ron Nirenberg
Dr. Sukh Kaur, Dist. 1 | Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2
Phyllis Viagran, Dist. 3 | Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, Dist. 4
Teri Castillo, Dist. 5 | Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6
Marina Alderete Gavito, Dist. 7 | Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8
John Courage, Dist. 9 | Marc Whyte, Dist. 10

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

5:00 PM

City Council Chambers

The City Council convened the Public Comment Session in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 5:02 PM. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call with the following Council Members present:

PRESENT: 10 – Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Courage, Whyte

ABSENT: 1 - Pelaez

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Public Hearing for the City’s Pathways to Removing Obstacles grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Veronica Garcia, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services Department]

Mayor Nirenberg opened the public hearing at 5:03 p.m. City Clerk read the caption of the item. No members of the public signed up to speak on the Item. Mayor Nirenberg closed the public hearing at 5:04 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

2. Public Comment is your opportunity to address your City of San Antonio elected officials directly about issues that are important to you and your community. To sign up to speak visit www.saspeakup.com. Click on meetings and events and select the meeting you'd like to participate in. Sign up to speak or submit a written comment. Members of the public are given up to three minutes to speak, and groups are given up to nine minutes.

Isabella Briseno, Gina Cramer, Cristina Martinez, Cecilia Gutierrez, Hanan Kamel, Victoria Ramirez, Kane Clavizzao, Ponciano Seoane III, Zoe Caballero, Stephanie Koithan, Noah Escamilla, Toni Taylor, Metzli Sanchez, Sara Masoud, Alex Obregon, Nader Mendawi, Fatima Masoud, Abel Vasquez, Nadia Mavrakis, Moureen Kaki, Antonio Allevato, and Howaida Werfelli spoke against Israel as an occupier of Palestinian land and requested that City Council call for an immediate cease fire in Gaza. They also requested an end to the friendship city relationship with Tel Aviv.

Morgan Carolin with Jewish Voices for Peace and Judith Norman called for an immediate cease fire in Gaza.

Antonio Diaz spoke in support of recognizing the rights of indigenous people in the United States and Palestine.

Maria Guerrero, Zheng Luo and Michael Kucik spoke in support of funding for Animal Care Services to move toward a no kill status.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comment, Mayor Pro Tempore Castillo adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Approved

Ron Nirenberg Mayor

**Debbie Racca-Sittre
City Clerk**