



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

COSA - CITY CLERK
2024 MAR 12 AM 11:20:32

TO: Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk

FROM: Councilmember Marina Alderete Gavito, District 7

COPIES: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; Joe Frank Picazo, Interim Assistant to the City Manager; Emily McGinn, Assistant to the City Council

SUBJECT: Bird Sanctuary Designation

DATE: Monday, March 11, 2024

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 a Bird Sanctuary Designation

Brief Background

San Antonio is an integral location in North America’s Central Flyway bird migration zone. San Antonio has also been recognized as a ‘Bird City Texas’ community by the Texas Audubon Society and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. With this recognition comes many requirements to maintain that status, including community engagement, habitat enhancement and protection, and creating safe spaces for birds. The City of San Antonio has achieved this recognition every year since 2021.¹

Protecting the over 250 distinct bird species that can be found in San Antonio is crucial to ensure their longevity here for generations to come.²

¹ <https://tpwd.texas.gov/wildlife/birding/bird-city-texas/>

² <https://www.expressnews.com/news/local/article/Large-bird-populations-San-Antonio-17244157.php>



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Request

I request that the City of San Antonio formalize San Antonio as a Bird Sanctuary where the capture, killing, shooting, trapping, removal, or relocation of birds is not permitted by untrained or unlicensed individuals and is punishable by an appropriate fine not to exceed \$500; unless for the purposes of capturing and relocating an injured bird with the intent of transporting it for rehabilitation at a designated rescue location. These measures are intended to safeguard protected bird populations consistent with state and federal guidelines and shall not interfere with the Unified Development Code (UDC).

Additionally, to ensure the cohabitation of wild peafowl within San Antonio neighborhoods, I also ask that the City establish policy that entails the following:

1. Allowing ACS to humanely capture, remove, and relocate peafowl or other exotic bird, only after taking community input into account and whereas the benefits of relocation outweigh the costs, to a sanctuary or rescue within city limits whenever possible.
2. Creation of an ordinance to only allow licensed/permitted handlers to remove and relocate peafowl or other exotic birds to ensure their safety.
3. Removal of language on the City website's Peafowl landing page indicating what is lawful but not encouraged.



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Submitted for Council consideration by:

Councilwoman Marina Alderete Gavito

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

District

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

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- 1
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