



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: June 27, 2024

In Control: Planning and Community Development Committee

DEPARTMENT: Development Services Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Michael Shannon

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Briefing and possible action on a City Council Consideration Request (CCR) to evaluate Chapter 11 Fire Prevention and Chapter 16 Licenses and Business Regulations for Used Automotive Parts Recyclers and Metal Recycling Entities.

SUMMARY:

The Development Services Department (DSD) will present a briefing on the City Council Consideration Request (CCR) submitted by Councilmember Teri Castillo to convene a task force to evaluate Chapter 11 and Chapter 16 to recommend amendments to these codes to ensure adequate enforcement of Used Auto Parts Recyclers (UAPR) and Metal Recycling Entities (MRE). The task force should include 10 neighborhood representatives chosen by the City Council and 10 industry representatives, including the following:

- 5 UAPR and 5 MRE representatives
- City staff from DSD, San Antonio Fire Department, City Attorney's Office, San Antonio Metro Health Department, San Antonio Police Department and Solid Waste Department

and other agencies such as the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and San Antonio Water System.

To serve as an industry representative on the task force, DSD staff proposes the following criteria be met – (1) licensed operator, (2) geographic diversity, (3) no violations in the last code enforcement inspection, and (4) no current citations. The task force should consider the timeline and process for issuing and resolving citations, fines for recurring violations, and identifying a threshold for triggering heavier enforcement mechanisms until violations and citations are resolved. Some of the heavier enforcement mechanisms to consider should include but are not limited to temporarily cease operations, requirements of fence line air monitors for a limited time, removal of non-conforming uses, and fines to recoup city services used to address violations and emergencies.

This briefing will allow an opportunity for input from Committee members.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In June 2023, during a Planning and Community Development Committee (PCDC) meeting, DSD presented the enforcement of city codes on local UAPRs and MREs, where they noted over one hundred code violations mainly found from the same entities. While most MREs and UAPRs comply with city codes and maintain safe operations, over the past several years, multiple MREs and UAPRs within city limits have caught fire. Most fires, occurring at recurring sites, have created massive plumes of smoke and air pollution within the city.

ISSUE:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that DSD convenes a task force to evaluate and recommend amendments to Chapter 11 and Chapter 16 that ensure adequate enforcement of city codes relating to UAPRs and MREs. DSD will provide regular updates to the Planning and Community Development Committee and eventually present them to the City Council for approval.