



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 3

Agenda Date: December 12, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: William McManus, Chief of Police

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Chapter 33 Vehicle for Hire Ordinance phasing out horse-drawn carriages

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes a three-year plan to phase out the use of horses with horse-drawn carriages in San Antonio, including the abolishment of ordinance(s) or policies as they relate to Chapter 33, Section IV Equine Drawn Carriages.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On November 28, 2022, a City Council Consideration Request (CCR) was submitted by Councilmember Phyllis Viagran and Councilmember Jalen McKee-Rodriguez requesting the development of a plan to phase out the use of horses with horse-drawn carriages in San Antonio, including the abolishment of ordinance(s) or policies as they relate to Chapter 33 permitting equine drawn carriages.

The CCR was heard by the Governance Committee on April 17, 2024, and referred to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Between May and August 2024, Staff briefed the Transportation Advisory Board, the Animal Care

Services Board, conducted a community survey, met with horse drawn carriages business owners and operators and twice briefed the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

On October 31, 2024, the City Council was briefed on Chapter 33 and the regulation of horse drawn carriages, results of the community survey, feedback from the owners of the horse-drawn carriage companies, and feedback from horse carriage drivers regarding potential workforce transition and three alternatives to phase out horse drawn carriages.

Based on the feedback received at this meeting, this ordinance authorizes the phase out of the use of horses with horse-drawn carriages in San Antonio, including the abolishment of ordinance(s) or policies as they relate to Chapter 33 permitting equine drawn carriages.

Changes to 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, as follows:
 - Current hours effective through May 31, 2025:
 - Monday – Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 2:00 am
 - Saturday – Sunday: 10:00 am – 2:00 am
 - City Holidays: 10:00 am – 2:00 am
 - June 1, 2025, to May 31, 2026
 - Monday – Friday: 11:00 am to 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm to 2:00 am
 - Saturday – Sunday: 2:00 pm – 2:00 am
 - City Holidays: 2:00 pm – 2:00 am
 - June 1, 2026, to December 31, 2027
 - Monday – Friday: 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm to 12:00 am
 - Saturday – Sunday: 5:00 pm – 2:00 am
 - City Holidays: 5:00 pm – 2:00 am
- 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.

Carriage Business Transition: The City’s Economic Development Department will assist business owners navigate programs available, such as Launch SA, to assist with business plan development and with LiftFund to explore Zero Percent Interest Loan eligibility.

Carriage Operators/Worker Transition: Effective January 2025, the City’s Workforce Development Office will schedule resources fairs monthly and coordinate with local workforce partners and education institutions. The fairs will focus on increasing awareness of resources, including the City of San Antonio’s Ready to Work program. Impacted workers who attend will receive guidance on navigating these resources and enrolling in programs tailored to their interests and abilities. Carriage operators interested in education and training pathways, will be guided toward local educational programs offering certifications, associate degrees, and vocational training. The Ready to Work program will provide tuition support for these pathways. Carriage operators nearing the completion of their training will receive support from job placement

specialists within Ready to Work to help ensure a smooth transition into their new careers.

Additionally, carriage operators interested in entrepreneurship alternatives will be connected with Launch SA to assist with business plan development and with LiftFund to explore Zero Percent Interest Loan eligibility.

In addition to the support provided to those who enter Ready to Work, carriage operators will be encouraged to visit a local American Job Center located throughout Bexar County and beyond that are operated by Workforce Solutions Alamo. The employment specialists there will also use labor market tools to match these skills with in-demand roles.

Workforce Solutions Alamo will provide ongoing job-seeking services to impacted workers who may be eligible through the Dislocated Worker program, funded by WIOA, which also offers financial assistance for job training, and job search support.

ISSUE:

This council action authorizes a three-year plan to phase out the use of horse-drawn carriages in San Antonio, including the abolishment of ordinance(s) or policies as they relate to Chapter 33, Section IV Equine Drawn Carriages in response to the City Council Consideration Request.

ALTERNATIVES:

Council may choose a different length of time to phase out the operation of horse-drawn carriages.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The annual revenue related to horse-drawn carriage permit and driver permit is \$17,400. This revenue will not be realized effective January 2028.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.