



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 4

Agenda Date: February 17, 2025

In Control: Governance Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Neighborhood and Housing Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Veronica Garcia, Director

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Council Consideration Request on Establishing a Process for City Assistance After Home Fire

SUMMARY:

Council Consideration Request on establishing a coordinated response system to assist families impacted by home fires with accessing available community resources.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On February 6, 2025, Councilmember Adriana Rocha Garcia and Councilmember Teri Castillo filed a Council Consideration Request (CCR) related to strengthening existing assistance programs and tailoring them for residential fire incidents. The CCR was supported by Councilmembers Whyte, Viagran, and Courage. According to the CCR, San Antonio has more residential fires than any other city in Texas, which often contributes to scarce recovery resources. The CCR also states there is no established response system to assist families impacted by home fires with accessing available community resources.

The City of San Antonio's Housing Assistance Program provides relocation assistance to eligible low-income renter households impacted by financial hardship and housing instability. Services include moving assistance, application fees deposits, and temporary lodging. Currently, renter households seeking relocation due to events beyond the renter's control, including but not limited to fire, vandalism, natural disaster, or other destruction are not eligible for relocation services.

ISSUE:

The CCR requests that staff prepare a recommendation to increase the level of city assistance for victims of house fires. In developing a recommendation, staff are asked to consider the following:

- Establish a coordinated response system involving the Fire Department, Neighborhood and Housing Services Department (NHSD), Department of Human Services (DHS), Animal Care Services (ACS), Development Services Department (DSD), and local non-profits.
- Provide additional resources and prevent unnecessary enforcement actions against the home.
- Facilitate access to appropriate assistance programs offered by the city and county, and applicable non-profits such as the American Red Cross.
- Strengthen existing assistance programs specifically to provide relief for victims of house fires.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends this item be referred to the Planning and Community Development Committee.