



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
{{item.tracking_number}}

Agenda Item Number: 5

Agenda Date: April 16, 2025

In Control: Governance Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Development Services Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Michael Shannon

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Council Consideration Request from Councilmember Jalen McKee-Rodriguez (District 2) on a Faith-Based Land for Community Benefit Initiative

SUMMARY:

On February 6, 2025, Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez submitted a Council Consideration Request (CCR) on a Faith-Based Land for Community Benefit Initiative, including a task force to oversee its implementation, identify funding sources, and create a streamlined process for faith-based institutions to engage in these projects.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The submitted CCR outlines that many faith-based organizations in San Antonio own underutilized land that could support affordable housing, food security, climate resilience, parks and green space, and public health initiatives. At the same time, the city faces rising housing costs,

food insecurity, climate-related risks, and homelessness. By partnering with faith-based organizations, the City may help transform surplus land into community-serving spaces while ensuring sustainable development and equitable resource distribution.

The CCR explains that ideal projects proposed as a result of the program would include affordable and transitional housing, safe parking programs for the unhoused, community gardens, urban farms and food forests, solar energy hubs, stormwater management solutions, cooling centers, and resiliency hubs, as well as opportunities to provide youth programming, violence prevention initiatives, and safe spaces for marginalized communities.

It recommends that the program be funded through city grants, public-private partnerships, state or federal incentives, Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZ) dollars, and more. Financial support for churches could include tax incentives, grants, bond dollars, and access to affordable loans.

The CCR proposes establishing a task force of representatives from San Antonio's faith-based community to streamline implementation and provide ongoing technical assistance. Additionally, to reduce the administrative burden on faith-based organizations, the CCR suggests that the City could offer a centralized application process for churches, allowing them to access zoning adjustments, permitting, and funding opportunities through a single point of contact. A technical assistance program could also provide expertise and support with land development, legal, and financial considerations.

ISSUE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

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