



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 2

**Agenda Date:** September 25, 2024

**In Control:** Municipal Court Advisory Committee

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**DEPARTMENT:** Municipal Courts

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Carla Obledo

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Municipal Court Teen Court Overview

**SUMMARY:**

The San Antonio Municipal Court will brief the Municipal Court Advisory Committee on an overview of the Teen Court Program.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Article 45.052 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (C.C.P.) authorizes the Municipal Court's Juvenile Court to defer cases and refer defendants to a teen court program. Teen court is an alternative sentencing option where defendants are judged by their peers. The defendant must successfully complete the teen court program within ninety (90) days of the sentencing hearing or by the end of the deferral period, whichever comes first. Upon receiving the satisfactory proof of the program's completion, the juvenile judge will dismiss the charge.

Once dismissed, the charge will not be included in the defendant's criminal or driving record and cannot be used for any other purpose. However, if the offense was traffic-related, the court is

required to report the successful completion and the date of completion to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for inclusion in the defendant's driving record. The court may also impose a \$20 reimbursement fee to cover participation costs and to support Teen Court's operations.

The juvenile court holds teen court sessions on Saturdays with St. Mary's Law School students and with City Attorney prosecutors serving as adult volunteers.

Teen Court not only offers an alternative sentencing option but also provides valuable volunteer and community involvement opportunities. It promotes education, civic participation, reduces recidivism and offers positive role models and mentors for the youth involved, ultimately contributing to a stronger workforce for the future.

**ISSUE:**

Briefing of Teen Court Overview

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.