

**State of Texas
County of Bexar
City of San Antonio**



**Meeting Minutes
City Council B Session**

Council Briefing Room
City Hall
100 Military Plaza
San Antonio, Texas 78205

2023 – 2025 Council Members

Mayor Ron Nirenberg

Dr. Sukh Kaur, Dist. 1 | Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2
Phyllis Viagran, Dist. 3 | Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, Dist. 4
Teri Castillo, Dist. 5 | Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6
Marina Alderete Gavito, Dist. 7 | Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8
John Courage, Dist. 9 | Marc Whyte, Dist. 10

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

2:00 PM

Council Briefing Room

The City Council convened a B Session meeting in the Council Briefing Room beginning at 2:11 p.m. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Council Members present:

PRESENT: 10 – Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, Whyte

ABSENT: 1 - Alderete Gavito

BRIEFING ONLY

1. Briefing on City-Wide Summer Youth Programming and Summer Preparedness. [David McCary, Assistant City Manager; Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager]

City Manager Erik Walsh introduced Assistant City Manager David McCary, who presented an overview of summer youth programs. McCary introduced Emergency Management

Coordinator Brian O'Neill, Deputy Chief of the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) and Emergency Management Coordinator, who presented information on mitigating summer heat. Chief Resiliency Officer, Laura Patino, and Chief Sustainability Officer, Doug Melnick, also presented information on summer preparedness.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Nirenberg noted that the City of San Antonio provided important services and programs to the community under the policy guidance of City Council to ensure the health and well-being of our residents. He requested that staff tie these services to strategic policy directives and plans as well as performance metrics and measures of success.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia acknowledged SAFD Fire Chief, Valerie Frausto, who was the keynote speaker for the Girls Empowerment Summit this week and recognized the Hero Like Her Program. Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked how the City accommodated applicants who did not have online access. Frausto stated that SAFD was exploring ways to work directly with the schools for signup and expansion of services. Assistant City Manager, David McCary, reported that the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Parks Department were creating a dashboard for a single point of contact for youth services but noted that some slots might need to be held for marginalized populations.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked how the Parks Department helped low-income families. Assistant Director of Parks, Nikki Ramos, stated that there was a sliding scale fee based on income and registration could not only be accomplished online but in person at the site.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked Homer Garcia, Director of Parks & Recreation, if he planned to fill all open positions and if they were addressing air conditioning issues at the centers. Garcia affirmed both. Councilmember Rocha Garcia requested a heat map of residents served by the Under One Roof Program. She felt comfortable with the SAWS drought reduction plan and asked the utility to work with neighborhood associations to promote their programs.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez commented that climate change and the crisis it presented was an opportunity to do more and prepare our community for extreme weather. He prioritized access to summer youth programming in terms of quality, quantity, and proximity and requested data on how the programs were advertised and other outreach methods, demographics on participants, and where the participants resided.

Councilmember Kaur agreed that programs for youth were the most important summer focus as students often experienced a reduction in their educational achievement, and requested information on program demand, outreach methods, and demographics. She asked if any of the programs were at risk of being cut as a result of Federal Government reductions and wanted to ensure they were prioritized next year as well. McCary stated that the programs were fully funded this year.

Councilmember Pelaez recommended that SAFD go to the Health Careers High School to

recruit for Emergency Medical Technicians. Councilmember Pelaez recommended more Art As Shade, Shade as Art for VIA Bus Stops. Assistant City Manager, Jeff Coyle, noted that the Art as Shade Program was not limited to the neighborhoods listed in the presentation. Councilmember Pelaez suggested that fire stations might be able to serve as cooling or hydration pit stops for road bicyclists. McCary noted that libraries could also serve this purpose and offered to develop a map. Chief Frausto commented that the fire stations always welcomed anyone in need, but she had concerns regarding the availability of emergency services. Parks Department Director, Homer Garcia, reported that the Parks Department set up energizer stations and would look at the heat map to determine new locations.

Councilmember Castillo noted that more high school students were going into trades and asked if they could participate in the Ambassador Program. Woosley stated that this population could be students at Alamo Colleges. Councilmember Castillo requested a report of the schools and degrees for the Ambassador students. Councilmember Castillo encouraged colleagues to look at the Good Samaritan Program. She noted a huge gap in cooling centers downtown and asked if more were being considered. Deputy City Manager, Maria Villagomez, stated that libraries and senior centers were cooling centers; Central Library was not targeted as a resiliency hub because the downtown area targeted unhoused populations with other programs. Woosley indicated that the Corazon Day Center and Christian Assistance Ministries were the best cooling sites.

Councilmember Castillo recommended advertising cooling centers on the kiosks. She recommended that the VIA Shade networks overlap with the cool network. She noted that the area of Castroville Road was one of the largest heat islands in the City and recommended working with VIA and Bexar County to identify more opportunities for shade.

Councilmember Castillo recommended that the Parks Department assist senior citizens with planting the trees that they gave away and to provide more mature trees. Garcia noted that residential tree planting was a key focus in the Parks Department's investment in tree canopy Citywide.

Councilmember Castillo suggested that the extension of pool season could help with keeping residents cool. Councilmember Castillo suggested improved coordination with the school calendars for youth programming. City Manager Walsh requested specific information about the locations recommended for bus shelters along Castroville Road.

Councilmember Courage requested the total number of youth/children involved in each of the programs outlined today and the total cost/investment in the programs for youth. He requested more robust outreach on heat resiliency programs such as inserts in utility bills. Alanna Reed, Director of Communications & Engagement, mentioned that centralization of internet messaging and the use of text messaging could allow for an improved measure of outreach.

Councilmember Courage noted that there were only four projects under low-income weatherization and suggested that this should complement CPS Energy's work. Melnick noted that his report only captured the Cool Neighborhood Program output.

Councilmember Viagran requested the Energy Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) definition of a grid emergency. She supported prioritizing bus shade in the identified Cool Neighborhood Program areas. Councilmember Viagran recommended a review of air conditioner units at resiliency hubs and other City facilities before it got too hot. She supported the Senior Swim Hour in Council District 3 and wanted to ensure success so that other pools could include the program. Councilmember Viagran noted that summers were getting hotter, and she appreciated a review of soil erosion and the hot days.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was not held.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Approved

**Ron Nirenberg
Mayor**

**Debbie Racca-Sittre
City Clerk**