



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 6

Agenda Date: April 23, 2024

In Control: Governance Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Office of the City Attorney

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Andy Segovia

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Teri Castillo (District 5) on DART Cost Recovery

SUMMARY:

A Council Consideration Request was submitted by Councilmember Teri Castillo (District 5) on DART Cost Recovery to establish a comprehensive fee structure so that DART property owners can be held responsible for maintaining the safety of their property and surrounding neighborhood.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On March 8, 2024, Councilmember Teri Castillo submitted a Council Consideration Request (CCR) concerning the Dangerous Assessment Response Team (DART) requesting a policy that 1) creates a comprehensive fee structure for all DART properties to be paid until the property is brought into full compliance; and 2) directs the entirety of those fees toward the COSA

Relocation Assistance Fund, so the City can assist more families transition to safe, stable, and affordable housing.

ISSUE:

DART investigates properties which have a minimum two-year documented code and/or criminal history. Residences DART-eligible properties often encounter safety concerns related to drug, gang, and/or other criminal activity. Furthermore, health and safety issues frequently originate from these properties, which lead to negative perceptions about an entire block or neighborhood. As a result, families move away, businesses close, vacant properties increase. and overall investment decreases.

The CCR request is limited to DART properties and is not intended to, nor should it include low-income homeowner occupants with minor reoccurring violations who are unable to afford to bring their property up to code.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact would require a cost analysis of the various City of San Antonio departments and resources used on DART inspections which differ depending on the size, location, scope of criminal activity, and condition of the property. The estimated “fees” to be collected would necessarily need to be tied to the actual costs. The fees charged and collected will probably vary by year depending on the number and nature of DART inspections conducted.

ALTERNATIVES:

Incorporate discussion of additional funding for COSA Relocation Assistance Fund into upcoming budget discussion.

RECOMMENDATION:

DART is an enforcement tool to abate the impact of nuisance properties within a neighborhood. The primary aim is mitigation and compliance. Staff recommends discussion of additional funding for COSA Relocation Assistance Funding be part of the budget development process.