



## OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

### COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST

**TO:** Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk

**FROM:** Councilmember Teri Castillo, District 5 & Councilmember Marina Alderete Gavito, District 7

**COPIES:** Erik Walsh, City Manager; Andy Segovia, City Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Reduce Celebratory Gunfire & "Call the Shots" Public Service Campaigns

**DATE:** Tuesday, September 24, 2024

#### Issue for Proposed Consideration

After coordinating this Council Consideration Request (CCR) with the City Manager, I respectfully request for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

Requesting consideration of Reduce Celebratory Gunfire & "Call the Shots" Public Service Campaigns CCR

#### Brief Background

Residents of District 5 and 7, and across San Antonio frequently experience sounds of stray gunfire in and around their neighborhoods. Oftentimes, these gunfire incidents lead to stray bullets which then land in residents' yards, on residents' personal vehicles, or even through the windows<sup>1</sup> of residents' homes<sup>2</sup>. Although these occurrences take place throughout the year, they are especially notable during holiday celebrations associated with fireworks, such as the Fourth of July or New Years Eve.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.kens5.com/article/news/crime/gunfire-strikes-san-antonio-home-separate-shootings-christmas-new-years/273-b10149bf-a3a5-49e6-b003-a53d83430103>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ksat.com/news/local/2023/01/03/northeast-side-family-suspects-celebratory-gunfire-caused-bullet-to-go-through-homes-roof/>



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Celebratory gunfire is illegal<sup>3</sup> throughout the state of Texas<sup>4</sup>, however, due to the prevalence in which it occurs, some residents have given up on reporting the issue to the proper enforcement authorities. Therefore, in order to address this particular issue of celebratory gunfire in San Antonio, it is critical for the City to do a public media campaign to remind residents throughout our City that celebratory gunfire is illegal<sup>5</sup>, and the law will be enforced in San Antonio. This campaign should also include messages which encourage residents to call in gunshots to the Non-Emergency line.

### Request

- City Staff should operationalize existing relationships with media and advertising partners to coordinate a public information campaign on the dangers and illegality of celebratory gunfire with appropriate City, County, State, and Federal enforcement authorities including but not limited to SAPD, Bexar County Sheriff's Office, Bexar County District Attorney's Office, and the Texas Department of Public Safety.
- Additionally, City Staff should coordinate a public information campaign entitled "Call the Shots" to educate and empower residents to call any incidents of gunshots in to the SAPD Non-Emergency Line.
- These efforts should be led by the City's Communications and Engagement Department with a focus on rolling out public information campaigns yearly around holiday celebrations associated with fireworks.
- The campaign should include information on the dangers of celebratory gunfire, the illegality of celebratory gunfire and the legal consequences that can come with the act, and a reminder on the importance of reporting celebratory gunfire to SAPD for enforcement of the law.

3

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/PE/htm/PE.42.htm#:~:text=Sec.%2042.12.%20%20DISCHARGE,of%20a%20firearm.>

4

[https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/PE/htm/PE.42.htm#:~:text=\(7\)%20%20discharges%20a,a%20public%20road%3B](https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/PE/htm/PE.42.htm#:~:text=(7)%20%20discharges%20a,a%20public%20road%3B)

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<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/PE/htm/PE.22.htm#:~:text=Sec.%2022.05.%20%20DEADLY,to%20be%20loaded.>



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Submitted for Council consideration by: Teri Castillo

Councilmember Teri Castillo, District 5

Marina Alderete Gavito

Councilmember Marina Alderete Gavito, District 7

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (exactly 3)

District

1. Jake Fournier

D9

2. Her

D6

3. M. K. Whyte

D10