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COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST

TO: Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk

FROM: Councilmember Phyllis Viagran, District 3

COPIES: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; Joe Frank Picazo, Interim Assistant to the City Manager; Emily McGinn, Assistant to the City Council

SUBJECT: Planning Commission Diversification

DATE: Monday, June 17, 2024

Issue Proposed for Consideration

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

- Requesting consideration of the Planning Commission Diversification CCR

Brief Background

Unlike the City's Zoning Commission, Planning Commission membership does not consist of members from each Council District. The City Charter direction that the nine Commission members be from "various areas" of the City can create disproportionate representation depending on the number of applications for membership that term. In addition to the nine Council-appointed members, the Commission consists of the following ex-officio members: the City Manager, a designated member of the City Council, the chair of the Zoning Commission, and the chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The Charter also provides that City Council may appoint other ex officio members.

In order to ensure fair consideration at the Planning Commission, individuals should be heard by a diverse, realistic representation of our community. If the Commission consists of members from only a few areas of the City, then Council needs a means to address this homogeneity. More robust recruitment and outreach efforts from the City Clerk's Office are essential. In collaboration with the Council Offices, increased advertisement and stakeholder engagement will be necessary to ensure that sufficient public participation will lead to diversity of Commission membership.



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In addition to increased community engagement, this CCR will direct City staff to research and develop an ordinance establishing a diversification process. Staff should explore options such as the appointment of additional ex officio Planning Commission members, the restructuring of application requirements to guarantee representation from more Council Districts, or other avenues that provide Council with the means to diversify Planning Commission membership. The ordinance shall establish a process by which City Council can review Planning Commission membership and determine whether further diversification is necessary.

Request

I request your support in diversifying the San Antonio Planning Commission by:

1. Directing the City Clerk's Office to increase community engagement and elicit Planning Commission applications from all areas of the City; and
2. Directing City Staff to explore options and develop an ordinance establishing a process that allows Council to ensure diverse representation within the City Planning Commission.

Submitted for Council consideration by:

Phyllis Vaughan

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (exactly 4)

District

1. John Comaga

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2. [Signature]

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3. D-M-R

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4. Teri

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