



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

TO:	Mayor and City Council
FROM:	Councilman Manny Pelaez, District 8
COPIES TO:	Erik Walsh, City Manager; Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Emily McGinn, Assistant to City Council
SUBJECT:	COSA/ISD SCHOOL MASS SHOOTING PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROGRAM
DATE:	April 11, 2023

Issue Proposed for Consideration

For the last 20 years, students, educators, and parents have lived with the reality of increasingly frequent school shootings. Independent School Districts should not be solely responsible for mass shooting prevention and response. The City of San Antonio must also take meaningful steps in preventing school mass shootings and reducing fatalities should a mass shooting occur in our community. Students and school personnel deserve schools that are safe and free of trauma.

To this end, I ask that City Council adopt and meaningfully fund an evidence-based and expert-guided mass shooting prevention and response plan for local schools.

This initiative must address the root causes of school shootings. Our SA Forward Plan should inform the proposed prevention, crisis response, and damage reduction plans. Using SA Forward as a guide, ISD staff, students, parents, community members and workers, as well as COSA should coordinate efforts to improve mental health resources available for families and for tracking of individuals known to engage in red-flag behaviors, trauma-informed care services, and early-education aimed at violence prevention.

Background

At the time of this CCR's drafting, the United States witnessed yet another school mass shooting in Nashville where three students and three adults were shot and killed. On the same day, another such shooting occurred in Denver, Colorado in which two school administrators were shot and injured at the school. The suspect was undergoing a daily search as part of a "safety plan" at the time of the shooting.

In 2022, we witnessed similar massacres at schools in Chicago, Orlando, Toledo, Tulsa, Oakland, Philadelphia, Uvalde, Washington, and Milwaukee. The list of school mass shootings is long and heartbreaking and there seems to be no reason to believe that they will cease to occur any time soon. The 2022 numbers show a total of 273 victims of gun violence on school property, and in these first 4 months of 2023, there have already been 85 victims.¹ Thankfully, San Antonio is not on that list of cities. However, the likelihood that such an event will occur in San Antonio is very high.

¹ Reidman, David (2023). K-12 School Shooting Database

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For various reasons, many of them not yet understood, schools are frequently targeted by perpetrators of mass shootings. As such, it is urgent that the City of San Antonio and local ISDs partner to identify opportunities to prevent mass shootings and reduce fatalities if such a shooting occurs. San Antonio and schools should immediately begin to study opportunities for improvements in physical security, faculty and student training, as well as ISD police and SAPD response protocols and training.

For the above stated reasons, I request your support.

Submitted for Council consideration by:


Councilman Manny Pelaez, District 8

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

District

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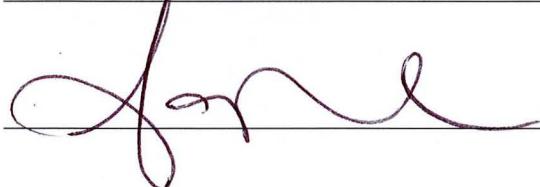
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