

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



**Meeting Minutes
City Council Special Meeting**

Municipal Plaza Building
114 W. Commerce Street
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

Sunday, January 14, 2024

11:00 AM

City Council Chambers

The City Council convened a Special Meeting in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 11:04 AM. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Council Members present:

PRESENT: 11 – Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Pelaez, Courage, Whyte

ABSENT: None

ITEMS

- 1. Resolution of the City Council of the City of San Antonio, Texas censuring City Councilmember Marc Whyte's recent actions.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Peter Onofre, Senior Elder with New Life Christian Center, submitted written comment expressing

concern that the Special Meeting was held on a Sunday morning.

Myrtle Parks, resident of Council District 10 and President of the Eden Homowner's Association, spoke in support of Councilmember Whyte and urged the City Council not to censure him.

Gregory Quiroz, Student at the University of Texas Health Science Center and healthcare provider, spoke against drunk driving and expressed support of the censure.

Jack Finger spoke against drunk driving but did not support the censure because Councilmember Whyte had not been convicted of a crime. He also opposed having a meeting on a Sunday morning.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember Whyte apologized for his actions and provided a brief statement in support of the censure to send a message that no one should drink and drive.

City Attorney Andy Segovia reminded the City Council that the Resolution was posted on the agenda and Councilmember Whyte would recuse himself.

Councilmember Courage noted that the session was a difficult one and it was the second time this concern was associated with a Council District 10 Councilmember but a Councilmember for one council district was really a Councilmember for the entire City because decisions affected the entire City. He commented that the City Council was held to a higher standard and therefore, he supported the censure.

Councilmember Viagran mentioned that the City Council was held to a higher standard and therefore, she supported the censure. She thanked Councilmember Whyte for taking responsibility for his actions and thanked the member of the public for pointing out the problems with drinking and driving.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito commented that drinking and driving was a serious issue, thanked Councilmember Whyte for taking responsibility for his actions and noted how important public safety was.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that drinking and driving was wrong and was a community issue and was an irresponsible action by Councilmember Whyte, however, grace, kindness, compassion, understanding and forgiveness was also warranted for not only Councilmember Whyte but for all residents who made mistakes. He thanked Councilmember Whyte for taking responsibility for his actions and supporting the censure.

Councilmember Pelaez commented that Councilmember Whyte had accepted responsibility, apologized sincerely and had held himself accountable by asking for the censure.

Councilmember Castillo spoke in support of restorative justice for all, including Councilmember Whyte. However, she noted that not everyone had an opportunity to move forward after an encounter with law enforcement or time in jail, including even the ability to pay for bail or other

legal costs related to a mistake and implored that everyone should be treated the same.

Mayor Nirenberg clarified that this was not the legal process that Councilmember Whyte would be going through related to the charge of Driving while Intoxicated (DWI), however, leaders of our government were held to a higher standard and it was important to hold ourselves to a higher standard. He expressed concern that San Antonio was the top large city in the State for drunk driving incidents and noted that actions had broad consequences.

Mayor Nirenberg recognized that Councilmember Whyte had admitted to driving after drinking alcohol and was taking responsibility for his actions but, that actions had consequences, therefore he would support the censure.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Approve. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Kaur, McKeeRodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Pelaez, Courage

Recuse: Whyte

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session held.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Approved

**Ron Nirenberg
Mayor**

**Debbie Racca-Sittre
City Clerk**