



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 35

Agenda Date: June 6, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Department of Arts and Culture

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Krystal Jones

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Diez y Seis Commission Amendment

SUMMARY:

This ordinance amends Ordinance No. 80321, passed and approved on June 16, 1994, which established the San Antonio Diez y Seis Commission and will reestablish and restructure the San Antonio Diez y Seis Commission. This amendment would establish the San Antonio Diez y Seis Commission consisting of seventeen members; including eleven (11) members to be appointed by Mayor and Council and appointing six (6) standing committee members, one from each of the following organizations: League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council 4947, Mexican Consul in San Antonio, Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, San Antonio Charro Association, LULAC Council 648, and Avenida Guadalupe Association.

The Mayor's appointed Council Liaison to Mexico shall serve as Council Liaison to the Diez y Seis Commission. The Chair of the Diez y Seis Commission shall be appointed by the Council Liaison to the Diez y Seis Commission. Members shall be professional and/or active community participants associated with the advocacy, creation, education, of Mexican, Mexican American, or Latin American history, art, and culture.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On June 16, 1994, Council passed Ordinance No. 80321 establishing the San Antonio Diez y Seis Commission to celebrate San Antonio's rich history and longstanding relationship with Mexico and to create a collaborative effort to encourage new activities. The Commission was originally comprised of 30 City Council appointed members from a list of names prepared by District 5 Councilman Juan Solis representing community organizations, including the Avenida Guadalupe Association and the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center; public entities, including City Public Service and VIA Metropolitan Transit; and individuals, including lawyers, advertising executives, attorneys, and educators committed to recognizing and celebrating Mexican American history and culture. The Commission consisted of four standing committees: Children's Programs, Senior Citizen Programs, Events Coordination, and Media Coordination. There has been no further City Council action.

The original City Council appointed members began departing the Commission in the late 1990's and by 2002, no original Commissioners remained. Members were replaced by volunteer community representatives without City Council consideration or action. Current membership includes Mari Sandoval-Ayala, Chair (LULAC Council 4947), Diego Armenta Martinez (Mexican Consulate in San Antonio), Belinda Menchaca (Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center), Edmundo Rios (San Antonio Charro Association), Lupe Torres (LULAC Council No. 648), Gabriel Q. Velasquez (Avenida Guadalupe Association), and additional volunteer community members.

The Department of Arts & Culture has provided staff support to the Commission since 2007. Since Fiscal Year 2010, \$50,000.00 from the General Fund has been allocated annually to support marketing and events coordinated by the City and Commission member organizations, including: El Grito Cultural Program & Civic Ceremony (Mexican Consulate); Diez y Seis Parade and Fiesta Alegria (Avenida Guadalupe Association); Fiestas Patrias Weekend at Market Square (LULAC Council No. 648); Diez y Seis Charreada (San Antonio Charro Association); Diez y Seis Mariachi Festival (LULAC Council No. 4947); Folkloric Dance Program and Symposium (Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center).

To honor and recognize the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the San Antonio Diez y Seis Commission, the Department of Arts & Culture prepared this amendment in coordination with current Diez y Seis Commission members, District 5 Councilwoman and Diez y Seis Commission liaison Teri Castillo, the City Clerk's Office, and the City Attorney's Office.

ISSUE:

Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 80321, approving the reestablishment, and restructuring of the San Antonio Diez y Seis Commission, dissolving the four standing committees established by Ordinance No 80321, appointing six Standing Commission members, and creating a process for an additional eleven Mayor and City Council recommended members. This action is consistent with other Board and Commission processes.

ALTERNATIVES:

City Council could elect not to approve this action, limiting the opportunity for the Diez y Seis Commission to appoint members through the official City process, and limiting community collaboration in programming of Diez y Seis events.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance amending Ordinance No. 80321, reestablishing the San Antonio Diez y Seis de Septiembre Commission and appointing members.