



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

COSA - CITY CLERK
2022 JAN 27 PM 03:17:55

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Jalen McKee-Rodriguez; Adriana Rocha Garcia
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: Access to Insulin Cost-Share Program
DATE: January 25, 2022

Issue Proposed for Consideration:

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

Requesting city staff to determine the feasibility and establish a fund (e.g. cost-share program) to help San Antonio residents cover the cost of insulin.

Brief Background:

Approximately 15.5% of Bexar County residents report ever having Diabetes. Black and Latino families suffer disproportionately from Diabetes resulting in higher rates of incidence, hospitalization and amputation¹, according to San Antonio Metro Health Data.

For one-third of diabetes patients, insulin is a vital part of treatment. Yet the cost of insulin has increased nearly 43-times the rate of the U.S. consumer price index inflation² for this life-saving medication.

“Rising costs have made access to affordable insulin far more difficult for people with diabetes, especially low-income individuals, those on high deductible health plans, beneficiaries using Medicare Part B to cover insulin delivered via pump, Medicare beneficiaries in the Part D donut hole, and those who turn 26 and must transition from their parents’ insurance, to manage their diabetes and avoid unnecessary complications and hospitalizations³,” according to the Endocrine Society.

Combined with lack of access to healthy foods and physical activity, thousands of San Antonians (especially Black and Latino individuals) have a lower life expectancy and a decreased quality of life. To improve outcomes for impacted residents and address a serious health inequity in our city, we must ensure access to insulin for all diabetes patients who need it. This would be the first program of its kind established in a major city in the United States.

¹ City of San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, *Diabetes in Bexar County 2017-2018 Report*, Retrieved from: <https://www.sanantonio.gov/Portals/0/Files/health/News/Reports/Diabetes/DiabetesReport2017-2018.pdf>

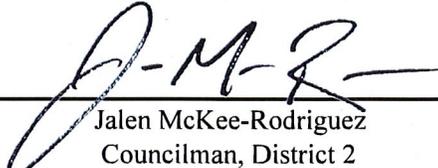
² Time Magazine, 2019 Oct 4, *The Price of Insulin has soared*, Retrieved from: <https://time.com/5709241/open-insulin-project/>

³ Endocrine Society, 2021 January 12, Retrieved from: <https://www.endocrine.org/advocacy/position-statements/increasing-insulin-affordability>



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Submitted for Council consideration by:

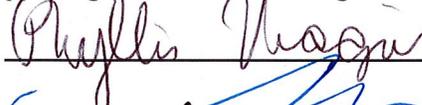


 Jalen McKee-Rodriguez
 Councilman, District 2



 Adriana Rocha Garcia
 Councilwoman, District 4

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures

1. 

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District

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