

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



**Meeting Minutes
City Council B Session**

City Hall Complex
San Antonio, Texas 78205

2021 – 2023 Council Members

Mayor Ron Nirenberg

Mario Bravo, 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
Rosie Castro, Dist. 7 | Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8
John Courage, Dist. 9 | Clayton Perry, Dist. 10

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

2:00 PM

City Hall Council Briefing Room

The City Council convened a regular meeting in the City Hall Council Briefing Room beginning at 2:02 PM. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Council Members present:

PRESENT: 10 – Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Castro, Courage, Perry

ABSENT: 1 - Pelaez

ITEMS

1. Briefing on City-Wide Youth Programming. [David W. Assistant City Manager McCary, Assistant City Manager]

City Manager Erik Walsh introduced the Item and Assistant City Manager David McCary who provided an update on City-wide Youth Services. Assistant City Manager McCary highlighted programs by seven City Departments centered on youth development, promoting health and safety, mental and physical activity and passion discovery. He stated that the Parks and Recreation Department (Parks) provided summer youth programs for ages 6 to 14 at 23 parks and 13 school sites. He added that Parks extended pool hours at 23 outdoor pools and was

planning to host special events and free swim lessons.

Assistant City Manager McCary reported that the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) was expected to offer children's and teen programming through live in-person activities. He noted that Metro Health was offering programs supporting social and emotional learning, teen leadership opportunities and youth resources through Project Worth and the Mayor's Fitness Council Student Ambassador Program.

Assistant City Manager McCary stated that the Department of Human Services (DHS) hosted summer internship programs, NXT Level: AlamoPromise Scholars Program offering summer college courses as well as nine agencies that provided programming to youth. He noted that the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) was planning to hold Co-Ed Heroes Camp and Camp HeroLikeHer to introduce youth aged 13-18 to the career of firefighting with hands on experiences. He added that the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) planned to hold two high school summer camps and the Police Corps for youth aged 14-20.

Assistant City Manager McCary listed several summer youth activities offered by Municipal Court designed to keep young offenders 13-17 years of age out of trouble by providing community service, youth enrichment and graffiti cleanup programs during the summer. He noted that year-round programs were courtroom services, peer court, and truancy services.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Nirenberg thanked Assistant City Manager McCary for his presentation and noted that parents would find the list of services helpful and suggested that there should be a single front door or centralized portal to help parents navigate services and programs. DHS Director Melanie Woosley stated that DHS contracted with Up Partnership and would ask them to coordinate with SACRED.org to develop a comprehensive list of summer youth programs even if they were not funded by the City.

Mayor Nirenberg recommended connecting parents with other resources such as Ready to Work. Assistant City Manager McCary stated that there was a sliding scale of pricing for the summer programs. Mayor Nirenberg noted that midnight basketball had launched through SAPD.

Councilmember Viagran recommended creating a social media post or short video to share with residents. City Manager Walsh committed to developing something for City Council.

Councilmember Viagran wanted to ensure that metrics and demographics were collected as this was a new start after the COVID-19 Pandemic. Councilmember Viagran asked whether Parks was on track to hire the lifeguards needed to open all the pools. Nikki Ramos, Assistant Parks Director, reported that the department had held job fairs, provided a \$500 sign-on incentive and offered an hourly wage of \$17.50 so recruitment was more successful than last year.

Councilmember Viagran offered to help with recruitment in the south side schools and volunteered for Library programs as well. Councilmember Viagran recommended that the San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE) Officers provide information to the neighborhood associations about the summer public safety programs.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda suggested that the council district offices could help provide flyers about the summer programs and job opportunities. Councilmember Cabello Havrda recommended including CPR and/or lifeguard certification in the Ambassador Program or the public safety programs. Councilmember Cabello Havrda supported the sliding scale and reduced cost program as well as free lunch for summer recreation programs. Councilmember Cabello Havrda thanked Judge Carla Obledo for the Municipal Court youth programs and requested information about peer court. Obledo stated that youth volunteered for peer court and some had gone through the justice system themselves.

Councilmember Perry mentioned that he was aware of the Parks programs but did not know as much about the others so he would appreciate some flyers and social media posts that his office could use to help advertise the programs. Councilmember Perry suggested actively recruiting some of the summer youth into City employment after they graduated not only to SAFD and SAPD, but also Public Works and Solid Waste. City Manager Walsh stated that the Human Resources Department worked with the departments and used the summer internship program as a recruitment tool.

Councilmember Castillo was excited that Roosevelt Park Pool was expected to open this season and for the opportunities for lifeguards and youth recreation. Councilmember Castillo suggested that the council district offices could provide opportunities for community service hours to youth in the truancy program. Obledo stated that the program provided an educational component to the community service and agreed to explore options.

Councilmember Courage supported the idea of an information portal to include not only City summer programs but those of the County, schools, non-profits, camps, jobs, etc.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez agreed that a portal was needed but suggested starting with public-funded opportunities. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez noted that safety, crime prevention and mental health services contributed to the overall goal for youth development and recommended supporting public schools noting that there had been two recent school shootings. Parks Assistant Director Nikki Ramos stated that Parks primarily served students at elementary and middle schools but stated that they were open to coordinating with other partners.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested information on the number of students that were served in the summer, what schools they attended, how the City ensured reaching underserved populations and a map of the services overlaid with the Equity Atlas. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked how the City was engaging youth during the summer to curb gang violence. Marjorie White, administrator of Metro Health's Violence Prevention Program, stated that there was a collaborative effort focused on youth success. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez recommended deeper connections with the community and connecting public safety camps with public safety opportunities in other departments including Animal Care Services.

Councilmember Castro thanked Assistant City Manager McCary for his presentation and recalled years in the past when the City did not have funds to provide summer programming for youth. She recommended collecting feedback from participants to help improve services and survey

their interests to set them up for a future college education or job opportunity. Councilmember Castro also suggested surveying parents to see what services or help they might need as well as the kids.

Councilmember Bravo recommended extending the daily and seasonal hours of the swimming pools. Ramos reported that both had been expanded. Councilmember Bravo supported a central portal for summer youth program opportunities as well as flyers and social media messages that could be shared by his office.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia recommended opportunities for youth to use and learn technology and artificial intelligence and suggested preparing youth for technology-based jobs of the future. Dale McNeil, Assistant Library Director, commented that there was a lot of interest in gaming technologies which were offered at many of the teen centers at the libraries. Councilmember Rocha Garcia supported providing meals and snacks at the camps as well as groceries from the food bank to take home on the weekend for the family.

Councilmember Courage recommended making the senior centers and other community centers available for youth to use computers noting there were after hours opportunities for youth to share the facilities.

Councilmember Castro noted that in the past, the Library offered museum passes to youth. McNeil stated that this was a funding issue for some of the museums and had not been offered in a while. Councilmember Castro also recommended passes for the San Antonio Zoo.

Councilmember Viagran commented that her senior citizens might not appreciate youth in their Senior Centers.

Councilmember Castillo supported expansion of the HeroLikeHer Program.

Mayor Nirenberg commented that creating better access to summer programs for youth either funded by the City or other partners, would improve outcomes for our communities.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 3:21 p.m. to deliberate and discuss the following:

- A. Economic development negotiations pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087 (economic development).
- B. The purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 (real property).
- C. Legal issues related to litigation involving the City pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

- D. Legal issues relating to COVID-19 preparedness pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E. Deliberate issues related to the ongoing City of San Antonio Disparity Study pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting in Open Session at 4:45 p.m. and announced that no official action was taken in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Approved

**Ron Nirenberg
Mayor**

**Debbie Racca-Sittre
City Clerk**