

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



**Meeting Minutes  
City Council Special Meeting**  
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 | Marc Whyte, Dist. 10

**Wednesday, June 21, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

**Municipal Plaza Building**

The City Council convened a regular meeting in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 10:10 AM. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Council Members present:

**PRESENT:** 11 – Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Castro, Pelaez, Courage, Whyte

**ABSENT:** None

**ITEMS**

1. Ordinance Canvassing the June 10, 2023 Runoff Election [Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk]

City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre presented the results of the June 10, 2023 Runoff Election for Council Districts 1 and 7. Dr. Sukh Kaur was declared elected to Place 1 with a vote of 59.12%. Marina Alderete Gavito was declared elected to Place 7 with a vote of 62.11%.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Betty Eckert, Council District 1 resident, spoke regarding the election of a new District 1 Councilmember, offered her congratulations to newly elected Councilmember Kaur and thanked

outgoing Councilmember Bravo for his service.

Dr. Sarah Gould, Executive Director of the Mexican American Civil Rights Institute (MACRI) and District 7 resident congratulated the members of the 2023-2025 City Council and thanked outgoing Councilmember Castro for her service on the City Council and for accepting appointment to the MACRI Board.

#### DISCUSSION:

Outgoing Councilmember Bravo thanked his and other council staff, City Staff, and City Council for their dedicated service. He also thanked his campaign staff and the Council District 1 constituents for their support. Councilmember Bravo thanked his family and his girlfriend for supporting and standing by him.

Councilmember Bravo noted that this had been a very busy City Council term with the distribution of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, Building Code Updates, redistricting, the 2022 Bond Program, Police Contract, TIRZ restructuring, new CEO of CPS Energy, construction impact grants for small businesses, permanent supportive housing, and redesign of the Council District 1 Field Office.

Finally, Councilmember Bravo congratulated newly elected Councilmember Dr. Sukh Kaur and wished her success for Council District 1 and symbolically handed over the baton to her.

Councilmember Castro noted that she had been denied a seat on City Council when she was 26 years old and now at age 75, she had finally gotten her chance to serve. Councilmember Castro commented that she had learned so much over the past few months and thanked the staff of the council district office and the City for their work and dedication. She congratulated the incoming City Council and noted it was majority woman.

Councilmember Castro thanked former Councilmember Sandoval for her service and noted the dedication of projects begun by Sandoval and completed under Castro's 3-month term such as Public Art project Poet's Point. Councilmember Castro thanked her friends and family for their support. Castro commended the City Council for making San Antonio an All-American City and a compassionate city.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez spoke of himself as an agent of change and congratulated Marc Whyte for being elected without a runoff election as well as the new Council District 1 and 7 Councilmembers for their election through the runoff. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez thanked Councilmembers Castro and Bravo for their service and noted memorable moments.

Councilmember Viagran thanked Councilmember Bravo for showing up and being gracious with his exit. She commented that although Councilmember Bravo was passionate about climate action, he was always willing to listen. Councilmember Viagran noted Bravo's struggle with construction on St. Mary's Street.

Councilmember Viagran stated that she was proud to have voted to appoint Councilmember

Castro to the interim seat. Councilmember Viagran thanked Councilmember Castro for being careful and thoughtful with her votes as well as for being a role model for Latina women.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia thanked Councilmember Bravo and his staff for their work and collaboration and wished him and his girlfriend the best in the future. Councilmember Rocha Garcia thanked Councilmember Castro for her service and recognized that she paved the way for numerous Latina women in San Antonio. Councilmember Rocha Garcia welcomed the new councilmembers.

Councilmember Castillo thanked Councilmember Bravo for focusing on climate and the needs of vulnerable populations as Council Districts 1 and 5 shared a border and the most economically disadvantaged census tract in the United States.

Councilmember Castillo noted that Councilmember Castro had a rich history of supporting the community and ensuring everyday workers' voices were heard and were treated fairly. Councilmember Castillo congratulated the new councilmembers and looked forward to the work ahead.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda thanked the outgoing Councilmembers for their service to our City and commended them for their work. Councilmember Cabello Havrda thanked Councilmember Castro for passion and advocacy for people of color in leadership. Councilmember Cabello Havrda congratulated and welcomed the new Councilmembers.

Councilmember Pelaez thanked Councilmembers Bravo and Castro for their service and noted that Councilmember Castro was an inspiration to his daughter.

Councilmember Courage stated that it was great serving with the outgoing councilmembers and noted that Councilmember Castro had earned her seat on the City Council and looked forward to continued work.

Councilmember Whyte thanked Councilmembers Castro and Bravo for their service and wished them the best. Councilmember Whyte congratulated the new councilmembers and thanked the Mayor and City Council for being so welcoming.

Mayor Nirenberg congratulated the new councilmembers and their families. He thanked Councilmember Bravo for his passion and 100% dedication to his job. Mayor Nirenberg thanked Councilmember Castro for setting a high bar for public service and shared an anecdote about a conversation with her son, former Mayor and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro.

Mayor Nirenberg asked for a motion to canvass the June 10, 2023 Runoff Election.

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

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Castro, Pelaez, Courage, Whyte

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was held.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

**Approved**

**Ron Nirenberg**  
**Mayor**

**Debbie Racca-Sittre**  
**City Clerk**