



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: June 29, 2023

In Control: Planning and Community Development Committee

DEPARTMENT: Development Services Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Michael Shannon

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Briefing and possible action on the submitted Council Consideration Request related to the Heat Illness Prevention for Construction Workers. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Michael Shannon, Director, Development Services]

SUMMARY:

On April 28, 2022, Former Councilwoman Ana E. Sandoval, District 7, and Councilwoman Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, District 4, proposed for consideration a creation of an ad hoc task force charged with evaluating and recommending heat illness prevention measures the City and Construction industry can take to ensure construction worker safety.

On May 25, 2023, City staff presented to the Planning and Community Development Committee. The Committee was in support of the Heat Illness education program and campaign, however asked City staff to provide them with the City of Austin and the City of Dallas Rest break ordinances for review. City staff will return on June 29 to discuss what the Committee would like to see in a possible ordinance and discuss options.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The CCR identified three factors that made this issue urgent for San Antonio to consider. First, San Antonio has hot summers. Second, San Antonio's continued growth makes it a booming construction market. Three, the proposal is consistent with the objectives of the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan, particularly adaptation to a warming climate, the City's commitment to racial equity, and the City's ambitious vision for improved public health in our community.

The CCR charged the task force with (1) considering potential locally tailored heat safety measures, (2) recommending measures to City Council, and (3) evaluating the success of the first year of implementation of any adopted measures.

The Heat Illness CCR Stakeholder Committee began meeting in December 2022. The first meeting was an introductory meeting of the CCR and an explanation and summary of the CCR for the stakeholder group to review and understand their charge.

The Development Services Department (DSD) held a total of five stakeholder meetings between December 2022 and May 2023 to discuss the concerns and issues related to heat illness and evaluate preventative measures. The Committee requested to hear from personnel from the City of Austin and the City of Dallas to provide responses to the Committee's questions regarding their current heat illness ordinances as part of the review. Both Cities provided a department representative that answered several questions about how their ordinance is enforced and how many violations have occurred since adopting their heat illness ordinance within their city. Additionally, each meeting and agenda was added to SASpeakUp to get feedback from the community.

The final meeting of the Heat Illness CCR Stakeholder Committee was held on May 10, 2023.

The Heat Illness CCR Stakeholder Committee was split on the type of recommendation to present to Development Services and SA Metro Health District.

The process for reviewing the proposed Heat Illness CCR was open to all citizens and stakeholders and DSD worked to achieve the support, involvement, feedback, and recommendation from all stakeholders.

ISSUE:

City staff presented the Heat Illness education program and campaign to the Planning and Community Development Committee on May 25, 2023. The Committee supported the Heat Illness education program and campaign but asked City staff to provide them with the City of Austin and City of Dallas Rest break ordinances for review. City staff will return on June 29, 2023, to discuss what the Committee would like to see in a possible ordinance and discuss options. Additionally, City staff proposed an education program that will update the City's SA Metro Health District

Heat Preparedness Plan and will partner with the construction industry stakeholders on educating all employers and construction workers about heat illness prevention

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Committee could direct staff to propose an ordinance that mirrors Dallas and Austin, which would require additional resources to be added to the City budget for update and enhancement.

RECOMMENDATION:

City staff recommends that the City continue with the Heat Illness education program and campaign.