



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: August 30, 2023

In Control: Governance Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Office of the City Clerk

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Debbie Racca-Sittre

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Consideration of Applicants for the SA: Ready to Work Advisory Board At-Large

SUMMARY:

The Governance Council Committee will interview 12 candidates and recommend to the full City Council to fill 9 At-Large positions to the SA: Ready to Work Advisory Board for new terms of office to expire on May 31, 2025.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On December 17, 2020, City Council approved the creation of the SA: Ready to Work Advisory Board. The SA: Ready to Work Advisory Board is charged with providing input to the Mayor and City Council on in-demand occupations, workforce training alignment and training targets, and wraparound support in connection with the SA: Ready to Work Program.

The SA: Ready to Work Board is comprised of 11 members, of which nine (9) positions are At-Large appointments, and two (2) positions are Councilmember Liaisons appointed by the Mayor. Councilmembers Manny Pelaez and Adriana Rocha Garcia currently serve as the two City Council liaisons appointed by the Mayor.

The SA: Ready to Work Advisory Board At-Large Representatives are comprised of the following categories:

- 4 representatives of local employers offering in-demand occupations
- 2 current or previous City workforce program participants
- 1 representative of a trade and labor organization
- 1 representative of a community organization
- 1 representative of a training provider or higher education institution

Currently, of the 9 At-Large seats, 5 are filled in holdover status and 4 are vacant.

In order to prevent actual or perceived conflicts of interest, no SA: Ready to Work Advisory Board appointed members may have direct relationships with entities that contract with the City for implementation of the SA: Ready to Work program. The Advisory Board meets bi-monthly and provides feedback on:

- In-demand occupations eligible for tuition assistance;
- Qualitative input regarding necessary skill sets and alignment with training programs;
- Annual allotment of workforce certificate vs. college degrees slots;
- Balance between workforce training and degree program from year to year; and
- Levels and quality of wraparound support.

In addition, SA: Ready to Work Advisory Board members:

- Serve as community program ambassadors, promoting resident participation and employer hiring of participants;
- Provide recommendations semi-annually to City Council during the annual budget development for the program and during a subsequent mid-year report.

ISSUE:

The following applicants will be interviewed by the Governance Council Committee for the corresponding categories:

Community Organization (1 Seat):

- Jennifer Cook (San Antonio Area Foundation)
- Dr. Johnny Vahalik (San Antonio ISD)
- Dr. Shuyu Zhang (USAA)

Current or Previous Workforce Program Participant (2 Seats):

- Jerry Graeber (Leonard Contracting, Inc./St. Philip's College) - Reappointment
- Amanda Wright (Winco South Texas) - Reappointment

Local Employer/In-Demand Occupation (4 Seats):

- Stephanie Gaines (StandardAero)
- Alexandra Perez (George Plumbing) – Also being considered for the Trade/Labor Organization category
- Jennifer Cantu (Bank of America) - Reappointment
- Sonia Garza (WellMed) - Reappointment
- Benjamin Peavy (Accenture) - Reappointment

Trade/Labor Organization (1 Seat):

- Geronimo Guerra (AT&T)
- Alexandra Perez (George Plumbing) – Also being considered for the Local Employer/In-Demand Occupation category

Training Provider/Higher Education Institution (1 Seat):

- Priscilla Aguilar (Palo Alto College)

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Committee can reject all or some of the applicants. If applicants are rejected, additional applicants not originally recommended for interview may be reconsidered, or additional applications may be sought. However, this will delay the process of filling the vacancies, which could impact the ability to obtain quorum for SA: Ready to Work Advisory Board meetings and to conduct board work.

RECOMMENDATION:

The City Clerk recommends the Governance City Council Committee interview and selection 9 appointees to be considered by the full City Council for approval at a future City Council A Session.