



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: February 16, 2022

In Control: Governance Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Homer Garcia III

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Park Space and Pavilion Reservation Fee Removal for Military Veterans' Groups

SUMMARY:

On March 26, 2021, Councilmember Melissa Cabello Havrda issued a Council Consideration Request (CCR) requesting the reduction or removal of fees for military veterans' groups to reserve park spaces for the use of events sponsored by or benefitting veterans and for City staff to work with Bexar County officials toward the same consideration for County Parks.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

According to the CCR, veteran organizations are required to pay the same fee as the general public for reserving park space and park pavilions for events or community-based purposes. In an effort to provide support and financial relief as we appreciate our veteran contributions, eliminating these fees demonstrates public acknowledgement and gratitude for their long-standing military contributions and community-based contributions as well. The CCR is consistent with San

Antonio's many substantive reasons as to why we are known throughout the world as Military City USA and intends to service as a long-standing example of respect and appreciating for our military veterans.

ISSUE:

Current Municipal Code 22.6.1 authorizes the Parks and Recreation Director to approve special promotions, rates and fees for parks and recreation facilities that are designated to market and maximize utilization of these facilities.

An existing Departmental policy signed in December 2018 allows for community organizations and groups, including Military Veterans' Groups, reduced or waived reservations rates based on eligible service criteria. Criteria for a Service In Lieu of Fee includes:

- The event or program is consistent with the Parks and Recreation Department's mission, objectives and is a valuable benefit to the City of San Antonio and the community.
- The proposed event or program will have no detrimental impacts on existing facilities and, will not displace any existing City programs or reservations.
- Event organizer must complete a Military Veterans' Group event request form for a Service In Lieu of Fee.
- Approval of Service In Lieu of Fee does not relieve the event organizer of the obligation to comply with all other permit requirements, including by not limited to security, liability insurance, health permits, etc.

Parks and Recreation has updated the Departmental policy to explicitly accommodate reduced or remove reservations fees for Military Veterans' Groups. The Department's online reservation system and in-person staff have received updated policy instructions when working with the public.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Any Service In Lieu of Fees for Military Veterans Groups would have minimal fiscal impact to the Department's General Fund revenue.

ALTERNATIVES:

There are no alternatives associated with this briefing.

RECOMMENDATION:

Existing conditions support the action requested in the CCR and no Council action is needed. Staff will also engage Bexar County Parks Division for their consideration of reduced or the removal of reservation fees for County parks.