

4. Update on the Council Consideration Request (CCR) to Phase Out the Horse-Drawn Carriages in San Antonio



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST

TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Jalen McKee-Rodriguez; Phyllis Viagran  
COPIES TO: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk; Andy Segovia,  
City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Emily McGinn,  
Assistant to City Council  
SUBJECT: A Just Transition from Horse Drawn Carriages  
DATE: November 28, 2022

Issue Proposed for Consideration:

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

A request for City staff to establish a plan to phase out the use of horses with horse drawn carriages in San Antonio, to include abolishment of ordinance(s) or policies as they relate to Chapter 33 permitting equine drawn carriages. The plan should include:

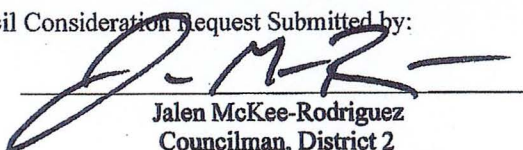
- 1) Determination of feasibility and establishment of a program to support a workforce transition from horse drawn carriages to electric carriages and pedicabs by December 31, 2023;
- 2) The establishment of a prohibition of the use of horses with carriage rides; and
- 3) Immediate cessation of the issuance of all new horse drawn carriage permits, medallions, and/or Special Event Permits, so that eventually all valid permits, medallions, and/or Special Event Permits have expired.

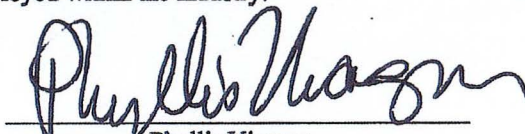
Background:

For years, residents have called out the use of horses in horse drawn carriages as an inhumane, cruel means of travel in San Antonio. The Animal Welfare Institute acknowledges, "constant exposure to traffic, noise, and pollution; the long hours of standing and walking on hard surfaces; the hard labor under sometimes extreme weather conditions; and lack of pasture access" are detrimental to health outcomes of horses, and inherently inconsistent with our City's expectations of the treatment of animals. These factors, in addition to environmental impacts of idling cars and slowed traffic justify a transition away from the use of horse drawn carriages.

The goal of this CCR is to purposefully and intentionally establish an end-date to the use of horses with horse drawn carriages, and to establish support mechanisms for those employed within the industry.

Council Consideration Request Submitted by:

  
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez  
Councilman, District 2

  
Phyllis Viagran  
Councilwoman, District 3

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures

1.

2.

3.

District

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