



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

COSA - CITY CLERK
2023 OCT 19 AM 11:43:51

TO:	Mayor and City Council
FROM:	Councilmembers Dr. Sukh Kaur; Jalen McKee-Rodriguez
COPIES TO:	Erik Walsh, City Manager; Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk; Andrew Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Emily McGinn, Assistant to City Council
SUBJECT:	Cultural Heritage District: N Main Avenue
DATE:	October 19, 2023

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:

Establishment of a Cultural Heritage District for the 1300 to 1900 blocks of North Main Avenue, colloquially known as the Gay Strip, in recognition of the area's importance to the LGBTQIA+ community.

Brief Background

Known lovingly as "The Gay Strip," N Main Avenue is one of the focal points of San Antonio's LGBTQIA+ community. The corridor is home to numerous LGBTQIA+-owned and -oriented businesses — including Pegasus, Sparky's Pub, Knockout, and Heat — and has hosted the annual "Pride Bigger than Texas" Pride Festival & Parade, which began in San Antonio in 1982. The first city-wide parade occurred in 1998 from Travis Park to the Alamo and is now hosted on N Main Avenue where the community comes together to celebrate identity, belonging, and activism.

The Gay Strip has also been home to our city's first Rainbow Crosswalk since 2018, a symbol of San Antonio's acceptance and celebration of the LGBTQIA+ community. Beyond a nightlife hub, the N Main Avenue is a cultural center where queer folks can come together in spaces created by and in celebration of them.

Cultural heritage districts are tools administered by the Office of Historic Preservation to document, preserve, and celebrate an area's cultural assets and history. Establishing a district can include placing historical markers, collecting oral histories, and hosting events to bring awareness to the area's heritage. Successful cultural districts foster local pride, create a strong sense of place, and boost tourism. They are different from historic districts and do not regulate or restrict the built environment.



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Establishing a cultural heritage district on N Main Avenue would strengthen San Antonio's reputation as a vibrant, welcoming city — one that celebrates its diversity and refuses to tolerate discrimination.

This proposal is consistent with the SA Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan's goal to establish San Antonio as a "national leader in recognizing and protecting the tangible and intangible attributes of its diverse cultural heritage," and the Economic Development Department's Strategic Plan, which recommends "[continuing] to prioritize historic preservation and community heritage within San Antonio to maintain the City's long cultural history alongside critical new development."

Submitted for Council consideration by:

Councilwoman Sukh Kaur, District 1

Councilman Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, District 2

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures

District

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