



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 4

Agenda Date: November 13, 2023

In Control: Planning and Community Development Committee

DEPARTMENT: Development Services Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Michael Shannon

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

A briefing on a pilot program to offer property owners and tenants, minimum 65 years of age and/or disabled with financial needs, assistance with lawn/alley maintenance, and with tree trimming and removal.

SUMMARY:

The Senior Assistance Pilot Program aims to protect our vulnerable aging population of property owners and tenants, a minimum of 65 years of age and/or disabled with financial needs, from receiving a citation after a notice of violation has been issued for specific code violations. This pilot program is intended for those individuals who are physically incapable and demonstrate a financial need.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Currently, the City's Development Services Department allocates roughly \$15,000 for its Compliance Assistance Fund, which aims to assist property owners and renters with covering the

cost of Code Compliance issues such as abatement, alley maintenance, trimming of trees, and any actionable code compliance issue throughout the city. As it stands now, in order to qualify for the Compliance Assistance Fund, a notice of violation must first be issued, and the property owner must appear in court to accept liability for the violation.

ISSUE:

This pilot program aims to help property owners and tenants who are 65 years of age and/or disabled with the following specific code violations:

- Lawn and alley maintenance (Overgrown grass/weeds, trash/debris/rubbish, and outside placement)
- Tree trimming or removal when determined by Code Enforcement that the tree poses a hazard

This pilot program is intended for those individuals who are physically incapable and demonstrate a financial need. The applicant must reside at the physical property address and must be located within city limits. Eligibility for funding would apply per household and be available twice a year in a rolling 12-month period. The average cost of abatement for a single-family residence is approximately \$700.

The Director or their designee will have the discretion to approve a higher amount when the amount exceeds the average cost to cover lawn/ alley maintenance and/ or tree trimming or removal.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Through the FY 2024 budget amendment process, the City Council approved \$100,000 to be allocated for the Senior Assistance Pilot Program. At the inception of the pilot program, the funding will be allocated equally per council district. After six (6) months, the number of abatements and actual expenditures will be reviewed to determine if funding should be allocated equitably across the city.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Planning and Community Development Committee could recommend different allocation of funds and/or additional case types to be included in the program.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Planning and Community Development Committee approve the Senior Assistance Pilot Program as presented by Staff.