



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 19

Agenda Date: March 21, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Department of Arts and Culture

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Krystal Jones

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Diez y Seis de Septiembre Commission

SUMMARY:

This ordinance amends Ordinance No. 80321, passed and approved on June 16, 1994, which established the Diez y Seis de Septiembre Commission. The Department of Arts & Culture, with the support of District 5 Councilwoman and Diez y Seis Commission liaison Teri Castillo, will reestablish the Diez y Seis Commission and generically name the District 5 Councilmember as the liaison. The revised ordinance will also reduce the number of Commissioners from 30 to the City's standard membership of 11 persons representative of the whole city; however, the appointment process will be by recommendation of the sitting District 5 Councilmember and confirmation by the full Council.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On June 16, 1994, Council passed Ordinance No. 80321 establishing the San Antonio Diez y Seis de Septiembre Commission to celebrate San Antonio's rich history and longstanding relationship with Mexico and to create a collaborative effort to encourage new activities. The Commission was originally comprised of 30 City Council appointed members and consisted of four standing committees: Children's Programs, Senior Citizen Programs, Events Coordination, and Media

Coordination. There has been no further City Council action.

The original Council appointed members began departing the Commission in the late 1990's and by 2002, no original Commissioners remained. Members were replaced by volunteer community representatives. Current membership includes Mari Sandoval-Ayala, Chair (LULAC Council 4947) and 10 additional volunteer community representatives make up the Commission.

The Commission was supported by staff from the Mayor's, City Manager's, and Public Information Offices until 2006. The Department of Arts & Culture began providing staff support in 2007. Since FY10, \$50K from the General Fund has been allocated annually, currently supporting the following events: El Grito Cultural Program & Civic Ceremony (Mexican Consulate); Annual Diez y Seis Parade and Fiesta Alegria (Avenida Guadalupe Association); Fiestas Patrias Weekend at Market Square (LULAC); Diez y Seis Charreada (San Antonio Charro Assn); Mariachi Festival (LULAC Council 4947); Folkloric Dance Program and Dance Symposium, Viva Mi Cultura event (Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center).

ISSUE:

The Department of Arts & Culture has provided staff support to the Diez y Seis de Septiembre Commission since 2007 and is recommending changes to the Commission structure. Ordinance No. 80321 established the Diez y Seis de Septiembre Commission in 1994 and is outdated.

This ordinance would revise the Diez y Seis de Septiembre Commission to reduce its size from 30 to 11 members. Each member, representative of the whole City, shall be recommended by the sitting District 5 Councilmember and be confirmed by the full Council. New appointees shall take the places of current members once sworn into office. The District 5 office will provide a chart depicting current and new appointees to ensure proper placement on the Commission.

The District 5 Councilmember would also recommend appointment of the Commission Chair. Each appointment shall be for a two-year period coterminous with that of the City Council. Appointments mid-term are for the remainder of the unexpired term. To the extent not in conflict with this ordinance, the Diez y Seis Commission is subject to the City's Boards & Commissions.

District 5 Councilwoman Teri Castillo, who serves as the Diez y Seis Liaison, is supportive of the proposed changes to the Diez y Seis Commission.

ALTERNATIVES:

If City Council chooses not to approve this ordinance, the Diez y Seis de Septiembre Commission would continue to operate as it has with volunteer members.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact tied to this ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION:

Department of Arts & Culture Staff recommend approval of this ordinance authorizing a new Diez y Seis de Septiembre Commission.