

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

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Teri Castillo, District 5 Councilmember

COPIES TO: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Tina Flores, City Clerk; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Ana Bradshaw Assistant to City Council

SUBJECT: Updating City Codes for Used Automotive Recycling Parts Recyclers and Metal Recycling Entities

DATE: 11/27/2023

Issue Proposed for Consideration

Requesting the creation of a stakeholder taskforce charged with evaluating and recommending amendments to the San Antonio Code of Ordinances, specifically Chapter 11 Fire Prevention and Chapter 16 Licenses and Business Regulations, that ensure adequate enforcement of city codes relating to used automotive parts recyclers (UAPR) and metal recycling entities (MRE).

Background

Used Automotive Parts Recyclers (UAPR) and Metal Recycling Entities (MRE) are facilities key to our city's recycling ecosystem and circular economy – many of them have been part of our community for decades. While they are part of what is considered the sustainable economy, the process of recycling used automotive parts and metals often results in serious pollution for the surrounding area that can cause detrimental health issues in people.

Air emissions such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), particulate matter and ozone, lead, mercury, and other hazardous air pollutants stem from much of the work UAPRs and MREs conduct during the breakdown process of onsite materials. These emissions, especially with long-term exposure, can lead to cancer, respiratory diseases, liver damage, neurological damage, and other dangerous health effects. While hazardous air emissions are most dangerous to people working and living near these facilities, they also threaten the health of all residents throughout the city of San Antonio as air pollutants can travel can travel hundreds of miles away from their original source.

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- Fines on UAPRs and MRES for recurring use of city services during onsite emergencies due to operations in violation of city and state codes issued by SAFD. City services such as SAFD/EMS, SAPD, SAWS, and other relevant city services would receive the revenues of these fines to recoup costs of expenditures during such emergency events. Additionally, any leftover revenue from these fines should be used to fund the Tree Mitigation Fund and other pollution mitigation initiatives to ultimately reduce the air, ground, and water pollution in our city created by such entities.
- Identifying and updating a threshold for the number of Chapter 11 Fire Prevention and Chapter 16 Licenses and Business Regulations code citations and violations made by an UAPR or MRE that, if not corrected, result in heavy enforcement mechanisms until the code citations and violations are resolved. These potential enforcement mechanisms could include:
 - Temporarily ceasing operations.
 - Requirements of fence line air monitors for a certain number of weeks to track air pollution data.
 - Removal of non-conforming uses.
 - Fines to recoup city services used to address violations and emergencies at UAPRs and MREs.

Submitted for Council consideration by:

Teri Castillo

Councilwoman Teri Castillo, District 5

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

District

1. J-M-R

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2. Phyllis Maguen

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3. [Signature]

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4. Ch J. G. G. G.

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