



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: March 20, 2024

In Control: Governance Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Jennifer Mata

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Manny Pelaez (District 8) and Councilmember Adriana Rocha Garcia (District 4) on creation of the Innocence Reclaimed Project.

SUMMARY:

Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Manny Pelaez (District 8) and Councilmember Adriana Rocha Garcia (District 4) on creation of the Innocence Reclaimed Project.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On August 10, 2023, Councilmember Pelaez and Councilmember Rocha Garcia submitted a Council Consideration Request (CCR) for the creation of the Innocence Reclaimed Project - a funded and staffed program. The CCR states that the project should provide: 1) legal assistance to residents eligible to receive criminal history expungements as set out by the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure; 2) a continuous city-wide public education campaign which informs

expungement eligible residents of their rights and resources; and 3) wrap-around services to qualified individuals who avail themselves of the right to expungements (eg. housing assistance, employment assistance, etc.).

ISSUE:

The CCR states that the design of the proposed Innocence Reclaimed Program should be informed by input from stakeholders and experts who have worked with formerly incarcerated individuals such as Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, St. Mary's University School of Law's Center for Legal and Social Justice, MALDEF, NAACP, the Consul General of Mexico, the Bexar County District Attorney, the San Antonio Bar Association, the San Antonio Young Lawyer's Association, San Antonio Municipal Court judges, The Bexar County Public Defender's Office, All of Us or None, South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless, and other relevant non-profit organizations dedicated to assisting San Antonians with access to housing and employment opportunities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Governance Committee reevaluate the item in 60 days to allow more time for review and recommendations concerning resources and staffing.