



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 4

Agenda Date: March 20, 2024

In Control: Governance Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Development Services Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Michael Shannon

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Teri Castillo (District 5) on Updating City Codes for Used Automobile Recycling Parts, Recyclers, and Metal Recycling Entities.

SUMMARY:

Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Teri Castillo (District 5) on Updating City Codes for Used Automobile Recycling Parts, Recyclers, and Metal Recycling Entities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On November 27, 2023, Councilmember Teri Castillo submitted a Council Consideration Request (CCR) to convene an ad hoc group of stakeholders including representatives of neighborhood residents, city staff from the San Antonio Fire Department and Development Services Department, industry representatives, and subject matter experts to evaluate Chapter 11 Fire Prevention and Chapter 16 Licenses and Business Regulations of the San Antonio Code and recommend amendments to City Council regarding these codes to ensure adequate enforcement of Used

Automobile Recycling Parts, Recyclers (UAPRs), and Metal Recycling Entities (MREs).

The CCR states the task force should discuss topics of, but not limited to:

- Timeline and process for Chapter 11 Fire Prevention and Chapter 16 Licenses and Business Regulations code citations and violations to be identified, issued, and resolved by UAPR and MRE companies.
- 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.

ISSUE:

In June 2023, during a Planning and Community Development Committee (PCDC) meeting, DSD provided a presentation on the enforcement of city codes on local UAPRs and MREs where they noted there were over a hundred code violations found largely from the same entities. While most MREs and UAPRs comply with city codes and maintain safe operations, over the past several years, there have been multiple MREs and UAPRs within city limits that have caught fire. Most fires occurring at recurring sites created massive plumes of smoke and air pollution within the city.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that DSD convenes a stakeholder group to evaluate and recommend amendments to Chapter 11 and Chapter 16 that ensure adequate enforcement of city codes relating to UAPRs and MREs. DSD will provide regular updates to the Planning and Community Development Committee and then present to City Council for approval.