



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

COSA - CITY CLERK
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TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Councilman Manny Pelaez, District 8
COPIES TO: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk; Andrew Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Emily McGinn, Assistant to City Council
SUBJECT: Homeless Encampment Education Campaign
DATE: 10/17/2023

Issue Proposed for Consideration

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

Direction to City Staff to coordinate a public engagement campaign as part of its homeless outreach program. Components of the public education campaign should include but are not limited to:

- **Data Sharing and Transparency:** make impact reports of the abatement process easily accessible and available to all residents through a dashboard. Raw data should be made available to the public, researchers, and relevant non-profits.
- **Awareness:** inform the public about the extent of homelessness and homeless outreach efforts of the city by way of a branded campaign.
- **Education:** clarify the abatement process to residents and dispel stereotypes of people experiencing homelessness.

Brief Background

San Antonio City Staff already has an established homeless encampment abatement process that includes:

- Impact assessment prior to any homeless encampment abatement;
- A prompt abatement after reasonable notice to those living in the encampment;
- Homeless outreach coordinators that offer the full spectrum of available services to people experiencing homelessness before any abatement;



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- A comprehensive collection of data before, during, and after the abatement that will better inform COSA's homelessness response strategies.

However, this process does not contain a public facing component that informs community members of what is being done along with its impact.

A public education campaign of this nature reduces the stigma, builds empathy, raises awareness, and shines a light on the City of San Antonio's work to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and non-reoccurring. Public education and data sharing are essential components of addressing homelessness and are critical for making meaningful progress.

Submitted for Council consideration by:

Councilman Manny Pelaez, District 8

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

	District
1.	7
2.	10
3.	4
4.	9