

# City of San Antonio



## Minutes Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee

2021 – 2023 Council Members

Chair: Adriana Rocha Garcia, Dist. 4

Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2 | Phyllis Viagran, Dist. 3

Teri Castillo, Dist. 5

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Thursday, February 23, 2023

2:00 PM

City Hall

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The Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee convened a regular meeting in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 2:07 PM. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

**Members Present:** Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, *Chair*  
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*  
Phyllis Viagran, *Member*  
Teri Castillo, *Member*

**Members Absent:** None

### Approval of Minutes

#### 1. Approval of minutes for the January 19, 2023, Community Health, Environment, and Culture meeting.

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve the minutes for the January 19, 2023 Community Health, Environment and Culture meeting. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo  
**Absent:** None

### Public Comments

Emma Alexander, Pastor of True Vine Church, Bethany Hill Somers from Grace Lutheran Church and Dough Beach, Executive Director of National Alliance on Mental Illness spoke in support of ARPA

Funding for their organizations.

## **Briefing and Possible Action on**

2. **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spending Framework – Impactful Investments for Youth and Seniors (Older Adults) possible action and recommendations related to the balance of ARPA funding for the Youth and Seniors (older Adults) Spending Categories.** [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Department of Human Services]

Assistant City Manager Lori Houston noted that the Governance Committee acted on February 15, 2023 to move the remaining \$1.67 million in ARPA funding to the Community Health Environment & Culture Committee (CHECC) for policy direction related to Youth and Senior Services.

Assistant Director of the Department of Human Services Jessica Dovalina provided background on the ARPA funding that had been designated to support non-profit social service agencies, senior and youth services.

Dovalina reported that \$18.4 million had already been allocated by City Council and the balance of funding was being proposed to be distributed through a competitive process with \$500,000 for non-profits providing services to both youth and seniors for technology and accessibility; \$500,000 for senior services for food and resource security and assistance with caregiving; and \$674,916 for youth services for positive pathways to education and employment. Dovalina provided a timeline, eligibility and scoring for the proposed Request for Proposals (RFP). Assistant City Manager Houston clarified that the previous RFP was complete.

Chair Rocha Garcia clarified that the Committee was not selecting organizations but simply considering the funding categories noting that youth services should be considered since there had been several incidents lately and noted that the Violent Crime Reduction Plan indicated that young men needed intervention. She asked Dovalina for a detailed timeline for the process. Dovalina stated that after the RFP, the plan was to take recommendations to the full city council and not back to the Planning & Community Development Committee (PCDC). Chair Rocha Garcia requested that staff specifically provide outreach to those organizations that were not successful in the last round of RFP and to ensure that feedback was received regarding the funding amounts.

Councilmember Castillo supported investment in youth and noted that seniors in her council district were requesting support with wheelchair ramps and recommended minor home repairs. Houston stated that the funding was limited but it would be allowable and suggested that housing bond funding could be used for this purpose instead.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez recommended a realignment of goals for the FY 2024 Delegate Agency Budget to consider the lessons learned through the ARPA RFPs and also supported staff debriefings for agencies that were not successful with their proposals. Director of the Department of Human Services Melody Woosley announced that she would present the Delegate Agency Process and Goals at B session next week. While Councilmember McKee-

Rodriguez supported provision of services according to the Equity Atlas, he wanted to ensure local agencies in those underserved areas of town were being considered for funding.

Councilmember Viagran requested a definition for the services that would be provided to youth and expressed concern that the proposed services lacked consideration of upstream issues. Dovalina stated that Opportunity Youth as defined by the Texas Education Agency included upstream strategies.

Councilmember Viagran supported the minor home renovations for home accessibility for senior citizens noting that many lost mobility during the pandemic. Assistant City Manager Houston stated that the Strategic Housing Implementation Plan and Homeless Strategy would come back to PCDC in April 2023 and could include prioritizing homeowner rehabilitation related to accessibility in the \$45 million in Housing Bond funds.

Chair Rocha Garcia commented that there could be liability issues related to building wheelchair ramps and suggested that Habitat for Humanity or Disability SA might be a resource.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez commented that some of the seniors were limited in their crafting supplies and tools at the Senior Centers due to budgetary constraints. Dovalina committed that DHS would carve out additional funding for those supplies rather than taking it from ARPA.

Councilmember Viagran supported the ARPA funding being distributed to agencies but expressed concern that the same thing could happen with this RFP as the last one in which there not enough responsive proposals to allocate all the funding. Assistant City Manager Houston replied that there would be further opportunities to reallocate funding through the Delegate Agency process or in the Budget discussion if funding was remaining.

Chair Rocha Garcia closed the discussion by expressing support for discussion at full City Council.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to Approve. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo  
**Absent:** None

## **Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, Chair Rocha Garcia adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

**Approved**

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***Adriana Rocha Garcia, Chair***

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***Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk***