

City of San Antonio



Minutes Governance Committee 2023 – 2025 Council Members

Mayor Ron Nirenberg, Chair
Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, Dist. 4 | Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6
Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8 | John Courage, Dist. 9

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

9:00 AM

City Hall Complex

The Governance Committee convened a regular meeting in the City Hall Media Briefing Room at 9:01 AM. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

Members Present: Ron Nirenberg, *Mayor, Chair*
Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, *Member*
Melissa Cabello Havrda, *Member*
Manny Pelaez, *Member*
John Courage, *Member*

Members Absent: None

Approval of Minutes

1. Governance Committee meeting on April 19, 2023.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Approve the minutes of the April 19, 2023 Governance Committee meeting. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Rocha Garcia, Pelaez, Courage
Absent: Cabello Havrda

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. Consideration of Applicants for the SA: Ready to Work Advisory Board At-Large [Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk; Michael Ramsey, Director, Workforce Development]

Mayor Nirenberg introduced the Item and described the interview process which included each

applicant providing a two minute opening statement and taking questions from the Committee. The Committee interviewed Priscilla Aguilar for the training provider/higher education category, Geronimo Guerra for the trades/labor organizations category, Alexandra “Allie” Perez for the trades/labor organizations and local employer of in demand occupations categories, Jennifer Cook and Johnny Vahalik in the community organization category.

The following applicants for reappointment were interviewed as a group: Amanda Wright in the current/previous workforce development program participant category, Jennifer Cantu and Benjamin Peavy in the local employer of in demand occupations category. Mayor Nirenberg thanked the incumbents for their service. Jerry Graeber, Stefanie Gaines and Sonia Garza provided written statements in lieu of attending the interviews.

Mayor Nirenberg commented that there were many highly qualified applicants and those who were not recommended for appointment to the Ready to Work Advisory Board should consider other opportunities to serve.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to recommend the appointment of Alexandra “Allie” Perez for the community organization category; Jerry Graeber and Amanda Wright for the previous workforce program participant category; Jennifer Cantu, Stefanie Gaines, Sonia Garza, and Benjamin Peavy for the local employer of an in demand occupation category; Priscilla Aguilar for the training provider category; and Geronimo Guerra for the trade/labor organization category; for the remainder of a term to expire May 31, 2025. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Rocha Garcia, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage

3. Council Consideration Request by Councilmember John Courage (District 9) on Safe Babies [Elizabeth Provencio, First Assistant City Attorney]

Mayor Nirenberg recognized Councilmember Courage who provided an overview of the Item and recommended implementation of Safe Baby Boxes in all San Antonio Fire Stations.

First Assistant City Attorney Elizabeth Provencio provided an overview of the Council Consideration Request (CCR) and corresponding State legislation (Senate Bill 780) that was passed by the 88th Texas Legislature, signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott and was expected to take effect September 1, 2023 in the Texas Family Code. Provencio stated that the devices were included in the FY2024 Proposed Budget.

Councilmember Courage thanked Senator Menendez for sponsoring the bill forward in the State Legislature and all members of the San Antonio delegation for supporting the bill. Councilmember Courage also recognized the local District Attorney for his support and asked Bella Cobb, a “Baby Moses Baby” to tell her story. Councilmember Courage thanked the City Manager for including funding in the FY2024 Proposed Budget.

Item was for briefing only, no action was required by the Committee as action had been taken at the

State level.

4. Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Jalen McKee-Rodriguez (District 2) on The CROWN Act [Elizabeth Provencio, First Assistant City Attorney]

First Assistant City Attorney Elizabeth Provencio provided an overview of the Council Consideration Request (CCR) and corresponding State legislation (House Bill 567) that was passed by the 88th Texas Legislature, signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott and was expected to take effect September 1, 2023.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda thanked Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez for the CCR and the work of the Lemonade Circle in advocating for the CROWN Act. Councilmember Cabello Havrda confirmed that the CROWN Act would be included in the City's Non-discrimination Ordinance.

Item was for briefing only, no action was required by the Committee as action had been taken at the State level.

5. Recommending the At-Large reappointments to the Zoning Board of Adjustment [Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk]

Councilmember Courage moved to recommend the reappointment of John Bonillas, Evelyn Brown, Celencia Hayes and Razmin Riahi to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for the remainder of a term of office to expire on May 31, 2025. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Rocha Garcia, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Approved

Ron Nirenberg
Mayor

Debbie Racca-Sittre
City Clerk