

**State of Texas  
County of Bexar  
City of San Antonio**



**Meeting Minutes  
City Council A Session**

City Hall Complex  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

**2021 – 2023 Council Members**

Mayor Ron Nirenberg

Mario Bravo, Dist. 1 | Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2  
Phyllis Viagran, Dist. 3 | Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, Dist. 4  
Teri Castillo, Dist. 5 | Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6  
Ana Sandoval, Dist. 7 | Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8  
John Courage, Dist. 9 | Clayton Perry, Dist. 10

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**Thursday, December 9, 2021**

**9:00 AM**

**Municipal Plaza Building**

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The City Council convened a regular meeting in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 9:24 AM. Interim City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Council Members present:

**PRESENT:** 11 – Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

**ABSENT:** None

1. The Invocation was delivered by Les Hollon PhD, Senior Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, guest of Councilmember Bravo, District 1.
2. Mayor Nirenberg led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
3. Approval of minutes for the City Council meetings of November 17, 2021 and

November 18, 2021.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to approve. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

### **POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Mayor Nirenberg recognized visitors from Mexico including the Mexican Secretary of Tourism Miguel Torruco Marques who addressed the City Council. Secretary Torruco thanked Consul General Ruben Minutti for his work representing Mexico in San Antonio at the Mexican Consulate. Secretary Torruco explained that the purpose of his visit was to promote travel and tourism between San Antonio and Mexico. Mayor Nirenberg presented the Honor of Alcalde to Secretary Torruco.

Councilmembers Sandoval, Pelaez and Rocha Garcia welcomed and thanked the Secretary for coming to San Antonio today and wished him well during his visit.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez thanked everyone for donations to the District 2 winter coat drive and announced the drive would continue another week.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda recognized Nicholas Brinson owner of “The Line” small business in District 6 for his work on the toy and clothing drive in District 6. Councilmember Cabello Havrda issued a challenge to City Council to donate coats, socks, toys and suitcases to the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program. A representative from CASA provided an overview of the agency needs.

Councilmember Castillo announced the District 5 holiday toy drive and announced the nine days of giving from District 9 beginning today and concluding December 17, 2021. Councilmember Courage shared a short video showcasing the program.

Councilmember Perry recognized the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941 and asked everyone to remember the sacrifices made for our country.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Nirenberg called on individuals registered to speak on Consent Agenda Items.

Jack Finger spoke in opposition to Items 6 and 17.

Maria Martinez, officer of the Tourism Public Improvement District (TPID) Board of Directors spoke in support of Item 18.

Avinash Bhakta, President and Founder of ABH Hospitality Management, spoke in support of

Item 18.

Henry Feldman, Owner and Operator of Martin Feldman Hospitality Management and member of the TPID Board of Directors, spoke in support of Item 18.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda highlighted Item 4 noting the purchase of a helicopter would help the Police Department conduct needed operations.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda highlighted Item 11 and spoke in support of the United Service Organization (USO).

Councilmember Viagran highlighted Item 15 appointment from District 3 to the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee.

Councilmember Viagran highlighted Item 18 and thanked Henry Feldman for his leadership of the TPID.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez highlighted Item 15 appointment from District 2 to the Inner-City Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone.

Councilmember Sandoval highlighted Item 18 and thanked her colleagues that served on the Visit San Antonio Board and spoke in support of the TPID.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Sandoval seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. 2021-12-09-0945**

Ordinance approving the purchase of an overhauled Arrius 2F single turbine engine from SAFRAN Helicopter Engines, USA for the San Antonio Police Department Helicopter Unit for a total cost of \$371,129.00. Funding is available in the FY 2022 Adopted General Fund budget. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

**5. 2021-12-09-0946**

Ordinance approving a contract with Holt Texas Ltd., dba Holt Cat, to provide two replacement 60-ton detachable gooseneck trailers for a total cost of \$184,808.00 for the Public Works Department. Funding is available from the FY 2022 Equipment Renewal and Replacement Fund Budget. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

**6. 2021-12-09-0947**

Ordinance approving a contract with TRAX Analytics, LLC, to provide a smart restroom technology solution at the San Antonio International Airport for a total estimated cost of \$658,334.00. Funding for the first year in the amount of \$468,195.00 is available from the FY 2022 Airport Operating & Maintenance Fund Budget. Funding for subsequent years is contingent upon City Council approval of the annual budget. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

Jack M. Finger spoke in opposition of Item 6.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

**7. 2021-12-09-0948**

Ordinance approving the following contracts establishing unit prices for goods and services for an estimated annual cost of \$303,000.00, included in the respective department's FY 2022 Adopted Budget: (A) Intervet, Inc., dba Merck Animal Health, for feline and canine biologicals; and (B) Nardis, Inc., dba Nardis Public Safety, for civilian public safety uniforms and accessories. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

**8. 2021-12-09-0949**

Ordinance approving a task order to a Job Order Contract with Amstar, Inc. in the amount of \$356,894.11 for the Bazan Branch Library project. Funding is available from Tax Notes and FY 2022 Deferred Maintenance Program included in the FY 2022 – FY 2027 Capital Improvements Program. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

**9. 2021-12-09-0950**

Ordinance approving a change order in the increased amount not to exceed \$184,145.50 for a revised contract value of \$3,043,114.66; and approving payment to Straight Line Management, LLC for fabrication, delivery, and installation of a stand-alone prefabricated restroom related to the Lockwood and Dignowity Parks project. Funds are available from the 2017 - 2022 General Obligation Bond Program and are included in the FY 2022 - FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

**10. 2021-12-09-0951**

Ordinance approving a task order to the existing Interlocal Agreement with the San Antonio River Authority to reimburse SARA in an amount not to exceed \$4,400,000.00 for rehabilitation of the Nueva Street Dam – Gate 5. Funding is available from the Stormwater Regional Facilities Fund and is included in the FY 2022 – FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

**11. 2021-12-09-0952**

Ordinance approving a one-year lease agreement with the United Services Organization, Incorporated at the San Antonio International Airport with an option to renew for four, one-year extensions for their 2,026 square feet of lounge space in Terminal B and the change collection receptacles located at each security checkpoint. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Jesus Saenz, Director, Aviation]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

12.

**2021-12-09-0953**

Ordinance amending the lease agreement with Ocotillo Aviation, LLC at Stinson Municipal Airport to extend the term of the lease for one year through June 30, 2033 which is anticipated to generate \$123,397.56 in annual revenue for the Airport Operating and Maintenance Fund. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Jesus Saenz, Director, Aviation]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

13.

**2021-12-09-0954**

Ordinance approving a gas easement with Grey Forest Utilities granting access to property owned and controlled by the City of San Antonio at Leon Creek and the O. P. Schnabel Park expansion area near Prue Road; and accepting \$65,000.00 from Grey Forest Utilities for improvements at O. P. Schnabel Park. [David W. McCary, Assistant City Manager; Homer Garcia III, Director, Parks & Recreation]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

14.

**2021-12-09-0955**

Ordinance approving sewer and water easements with Santikos Raw Land, LLC. granting access to property owned and controlled by the City of San Antonio at Caracol Creek Park located at 10939 Rousseau Road; and approving Santikos Raw Land, LLC. to permanently close an abandoned well at Caracol Creek Park on behalf of the City of San Antonio as required by the Edwards Aquifer Authority. The permanent closure of the abandoned well is valued at approximately \$50,000.00. [David W. McCary, Assistant City Manager; Homer Garcia III, Director, Parks & Recreation]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

15. Approving the following Board, Commission and Committee appointments for the remainder of an unexpired term of office to expire May 31, 2023 or for the terms shown below [Debbie Racca- Sittre, Interim City Clerk]

- A. Appointing Stephen Lucke (District 2) to the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone 11 – Inner City
- B. Appointing Rachel Cywinski (District 3) to the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

- 16.** Appointing Erika Moe as the Citizen At-Large Representative of the San Antonio Economic Development Corporation Board for the remainder of an unexpired term of office to expire May 31, 2022. [Debbie Racca-Sittre, Interim City Clerk]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

- 17.** **2021-12-09-0956**

Ordinance approving the settlement of litigation styled Carmen Ramirez vs. City of San Antonio pending in the 73<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District Court, Bexar County, Texas in the amount of \$75,000. [Andy Segovia, City Attorney]

Jack M. Finger spoke in opposition to Item 17.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

- 18.** **2021-12-09-0957**

Ordinance approving the 2022 Service and Assessment Plan, the 2022 Assessment Roll, and maintaining the Assessment Rate for 2022 at 1.25% of the gross hotel room revenue subject to local hotel tax that is derived from an individual room rental of qualified rooms, for the San Antonio Tourism Public Improvement District. [Alejandra Lopez, Assistant City Manager; Patricia Muzquiz Cantor, Executive Director, Convention Sports Facilities].

Maria Martinez, officer of the Tourism Public Improvement District (TPID) Board of Directors spoke in support of Item 18.

Avinash Bhakta, President and Founder of ABH Hospitality Management, spoke in support of Item 18.

Henry Feldman, Owner and Operator of Martin Feldman Hospitality Management and member of the TPID Board of Directors, spoke in support of Item 18.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

**19. 2021-12-09-0958**

Ordinance approving an agreement with the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program to provide physician services in an amount up to \$99,739.00 for a period ending July 31, 2022, with the option to renew for one, one-year term for a total amount of \$199,478.00 inclusive of the renewal. [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Claude A. Jacob, Director, Health]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

**20. 2021-12-09-0959**

Ordinance approving an Interlocal Agreement with Texas A&M University-San Antonio to provide the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District with mosquito speciation services in an amount of up to \$19,200.00 for a period beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022, with the option to renew for four consecutive one-year terms for a total amount of \$96,000.00 inclusive of renewals. [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Claude A. Jacob, Director, Health]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

**21. 2021-12-09-0960**

Ordinance amending Professional Services Agreements with Reynolds, Smith & Hills, Inc., Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., Atkins North America Inc. to continue providing on-call general engineering consulting services for the San Antonio Airport System. Each agreement will increase the contract value in the amount of \$3,300,000.00 to provide engineering, design and consulting services for approved capital projects in the FY 2022 Capital Improvement Budget. Projects assigned under these agreements through on-call task orders basis and are not a guarantee of work. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Jesus Saenz, Director, Aviation]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **22. City Manager's Report**

City Manager Erik Walsh recognized the service of Steve De La Haya to the City of San Antonio and Visit San Antonio who was retiring. Councilmember Viagran and Mayor Nirenberg thanked De La Haya for his service.

City Manager Walsh announced that the City Metro Health Department was awarded the City Health Gold Medal Award from the Beaumont Foundation and Kaiser Permanente.

City Attorney Andy Segovia announced that Assistant City Attorney Susan Guinn had been promoted to Deputy City Attorney.

There being no further discussion or Executive Session, Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 10:08 AM.

### **1:00 P.M. – Briefing on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fiscal Recovery Funds**

- 23.** Briefing on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fiscal Recovery Funds to include the results from the community engagement process, priorities from the Small Business Advisory Commission, and analysis on premium pay. The presentation will also include preliminary recommendations for allocation of funds for City Council input. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; Veronica A. Carrillo, COVID-19 Executive Officer]

City Manager Erik Walsh introduced the Item and Veronica Carrillo, COVID-19 Executive Officer presented the Phase II Update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding which included Community Engagement, Premium Pay, Staff Recommendations and Next Steps. Carrillo provided background on the City Allocation and spending to date. Walsh added that discussion on capital needs would be considered with the Bond Program but ARPA funding could also be used. Walsh stated that the purpose of the briefing was for City Council to provide input on their priorities for ARPA funding.

Mayor Nirenberg commented that there were many needs and opportunities and recommended that ARPA be considered as a part of a greater plan to make San Antonio stronger, more resilient and equitable post-COVID.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda commented on the community feedback that she had heard from Council District 6 residents which included support for Premium Pay and the need to take care of

our children particularly those who had aged out of Foster Care. Councilmember Cabello Havrda felt that housing was a great need in our community and supported funding for Morgan's Wonderland as the organization focused on helping persons in the Special Needs Community.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez recommended setting aside funding for capital projects that would not be funded in the Bond. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez set the needs of Seniors as a key priority and recommended leveraging, ARPA, Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) and Housing Bond to establish a Senior Center with a housing component in Council District 2.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez recommended funding for small community-based nonprofits that focused on physical and mental health outcomes as well as piloting an alternative response model without an armed officer on the scene for mental health calls. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez recommended development of a "Hard to Adopt" training package for people to be encouraged to adopt large dogs from Animal Care Services. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that he would allocate \$200,000 for the Zer Nona Black Community Center and \$500,000 for Greater Love Community Center leaving a gap of \$300k for Greater Love Community Center.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez supported Premium Pay, funding at least two projects in the request by Morgan's Wonderland and asked City staff to develop a program for children aging out of Foster Care. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez expressed concern about the discussion regarding immediate needs especially mental health needs. City Manager Walsh committed to reviewing other resource opportunities for capital projects and said that there was already an alternative response program through the Center for Healthcare Services which was the mental health authority for the community rather than creating a new program.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia requested a list of organizations that had submitted requests for ARPA funding including what they were bringing to the table as leveraging. Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if the City received the ARPA funding request from SA Youth, Centro Med and VIA. City Manager Walsh stated that he would compile an updated list of all ARPA funding requests and send it out to all Councilmembers. Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if the Risk Mitigation Fund was included. City Manager Walsh stated that it was not. Councilmember Rocha Garcia stated that the Council District 4 priorities were: small business, childcare, mental health, digital literacy (SA Digital Connects equity plan), and services to seniors beyond physical health.

Councilmember Pelaez expressed his support for funding for the Battered Women's & Children's Shelter, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and Morgan's Wonderland. Councilmember Pelaez supported Premium Pay and the overall framework presented by staff because it reflected the community input. Councilmember Pelaez questioned the accuracy of the numbers from the surveys which Deputy City Manager Villagomez explained that the surveys were tracked by IP address which prohibited more than one survey done per IP address, however, a person could attend multiple meetings and provide input at each meeting.

Councilmember Viagran recommended support for people with disabilities, Seniors, improving the digital divide, eliminating food deserts and domestic violence. Councilmember Viagran supported Morgan's Wonderland's request. Councilmember Viagran requested that a conversation be held regarding front-line workers receiving more Premium Pay than those staff

that were able to remote work during the pandemic. Councilmember Viagran expressed concern about long-term health impacts of those who had contracted COVID-19. Councilmember Viagran recommended more time to review the needs, assess the current work of non-profit agencies, and completion of the 2022 Bond Program before the City Council allocated ARPA funding.

Councilmember Castillo stressed the importance of continued investment in emergency rental and housing assistance for residents and the creation of a program to help small businesses and the hospitality industry through grants. Councilmember Castillo supported Premium Pay but asked if uniformed employees had hazard pay already in their contracts which Villagomez replied that hazard pay was not included in the Fire and Police Union contracts. Councilmember Castillo recommended including funding for the arts that would be distributed by the Department of Arts & Culture to artists and agencies impacted by COVID-19. Councilmember Castillo supported funding for the Academica America organization, Morgan's Wonderland, youth aging out of Foster Care, and Fire Station #15.

Councilmember Castillo wanted to be intentional about using ARPA funding to train dispatchers to send the correct responders to mental health calls noting that for Damian Daniels, a mental health crisis call was dispatched to the police and not the Center for Health Care Services. Walsh explained that the Damian Daniels case occurred with the Bexar County Sheriff's Office and not the City's Police Department. City Manager Walsh recommended more community outreach so people did not call 9-1-1 with mental health crisis calls but rather the CHCS helpline. Councilmember Castillo suggested that staff collect the list of requests for ARPA funding from Bexar County. City Manager Walsh stated that such a list had been requested from Bexar County and added that the City shared its list of requests with Bexar County. He noted that the City and County Managers had discussed partnering and leveraging funding.

Councilmember Courage reminded everyone that ARPA was one-time funding and recommended using funding in ways that would have an immediate impact but would not create a long-term reliance on the funding. Councilmember Courage supported the idea of creating buckets of money that could serve many purposes. Councilmember Courage supported allocating \$35 million for emergency housing assistance, as well as funding for small businesses, arts (including \$3 million for the San Antonio Symphony), youth development, broadband internet, mental health, Premium Pay for City employees who experienced hazardous duties, and Morgan's Wonderland.

Councilmember Courage requested additional details on the above mentioned areas.

Councilmember Bravo asked Gordon Hartman from Morgan's Wonderland the percentage of local versus out of town visitors and Hartman explained that visitors were approximately 35% local and many of the out of town individuals stay overnight. Councilmember Bravo pointed out that Morgan's Wonderland supported the local hospitality industry. Councilmember Bravo supported staff Premium Pay but wanted to look at other sources of funding before he could decide on it and many other items.

Councilmember Bravo wanted a large amount of ARPA funding to go toward permanent supportive housing.

Councilmember Bravo asked if it was possible for 9-1-1 dispatchers to provide triage for mental health calls and referrals to CHCS, then he could support ARPA funding to enhance services by CHCS. City Manager Walsh suggested working with partners such as South Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC) to develop a plan for mental health responses that took into consideration the results from the Alternative Response Team Pilot Project that was approved in the FY 2022 Budget. Councilmember Bravo recommended using ARPA funding to expand testing for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and to provide more mental health services.

Councilmember Perry clarified that \$199.4 million was still available from ARPA funds and stressed that the funding should be one-time. City Manager Walsh confirmed that the funding should be spent in 3-5 years on items that would not need continued support. Councilmember Perry noted that 38% of San Antonio small businesses closed their doors as a result of the pandemic and added that the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce had sent a letter requesting support for small businesses so he supported funding for small businesses.

Councilmember Perry suggested Premium Pay only for City employees that would be eligible under ARPA, which excluded any staff that could work remotely. Councilmember Perry did not support Premium Pay for Police and Fire Department personnel since he felt that the job, they originally signed up for was wholly made up of hazard pay. Councilmember Perry noted that other Texas Cities were not offering Premium Pay so that gave him pause. Councilman Perry supported funding for broadband, Seniors, small businesses, and Morgan's Wonderland.

Councilmember Pelaez asked if domestic violence could fit into the ARPA funding plan. Villagomez reported that domestic violence qualified for ARPA funding and that staff recommended the City Council Committees define the programs and process but any specific requests for funding would be collected by COVID-19 Executive Officer.

Councilmember Pelaez also recommended renaming the plaza in front of City Hall to "Inclusion Plaza" and provided a Council Consideration Request (CCR) to the Interim City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre for distribution to the full City Council.

Councilmember Sandoval asked about the \$35 million for emergency housing assistance and asked for a definition of "Immediate Needs" which Villagomez explained would be needs that could be satisfied within a short period of time such as paying rent or utilities or keeping the doors open for an arts organization and "Impactful Investments" were more long term structural changes.

Councilmember Sandoval asked if more funding could go toward immediate needs and City Council could look at long term investments later. Councilmember Sandoval supported funding for services for seniors to keep them out of social isolation and to Academia America. Councilmember Sandoval asked about the status of requests by organizations. Villagomez responded that the purpose of today's meeting was to provide City Council with feedback from the community in order to create the funding "buckets" with further discussion in late January 2022. Villagomez stated that the budget amounts would be approved in February 2022 which would coincide with the Bond Committee discussions. Councilmember Sandoval supported Premium Pay for those who qualified under the ARPA guidelines.

Councilmember Viagran requested a briefing on the eligibility of the requests. Councilmember Viagran said that she was supportive of Premium Pay but did not want all the ARPA funds to go to Premium Pay. Councilmember Viagran requested to see the recommendations from the National League of Cities and benchmarking of other cities for their uses of ARPA funding especially for digital inclusion and services to seniors. Councilmember Viagran recommended waiting until the Bond Committee work was completed before ARPA funding was allocated.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked for a scenario where the staff eligible for Premium Pay per ARPA rules would get more funding and also provide a smaller level of Premium Pay for all employees. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez recommended funding pilot programs with ARPA funds including a follow-up to the pilot to the FY2022 budgeted for alternative response pilot, as well as pilots in other areas. Villagomez replied that these would need to be reviewed on a case by case basis for eligibility.

Councilmember Castillo supported Councilmember Courage's support of the San Antonio Symphony and asked that this should include funding for the musicians in Local 23 Union. Councilmember Castillo asked for a meeting with Chief McManus to review the work of the mental health team and possibly review funding to enhance the program.

Councilmember Perry asked if SAWS and CPS Energy were considering Premium Pay for their employees. City Manager Walsh replied that they were not.

Mayor Nirenberg asked when the next disbursement of funding would be received. City Manager Walsh replied that it would be received in May 2022. Mayor Nirenberg cautioned that the funding could be withdrawn if not used properly. Mayor Nirenberg asked if Bexar County was offering Premium Pay to their employees and requested a larger review of other Cities. City Manager Walsh stated that he would review comparable cities practices/programs. Mayor Nirenberg supported funding to Morgan's Wonderland but clarified that the outcome of today's meeting was to review the "buckets" of dollars within the constraints of immediate needs and impactful investments. Mayor Nirenberg noted that the first \$96 million dollars was already spent on human services, public safety and healthcare as "Immediate Needs" and there were more immediate needs such as in the arts but City Council should not forget those transformational impacts in mental health.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 3:08 PM.

**Approved**

**Ron Nirenberg  
Mayor**

Attest:

**Debbie Racca-Sittre  
Interim City Clerk**

DRAFT