



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 4

Agenda Date: February 16, 2022

In Control: Governance Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Nick Dominguez

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Expand local protections in the city code for users of service animals in housing and places of public accommodation, including certain types of housing, and conduct awareness outreach to housing providers and operators of public accommodation.

SUMMARY:

On October 13, 2021, Councilmember Manny Pelaez issued a Council Consideration Request (CCR) requesting City Staff to expand local housing and public accommodation protections in the city code for individuals who rely on service animals and to conduct an awareness campaign to inform housing providers and operators of places of public accommodations how best to accommodate those who rely on service animals.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

According to the CCR, San Antonio is home to an estimated 232,627 individuals, or 15.6% of the population, who experience one or more disabilities with a considerable number of these residents

who rely on service animals. As a leader in supporting the military community and local service animal training organizations, the City must ensure local protections for all who rely on service animals. According to the CCR, the City's code of ordinances features less than a dozen limited and brief mentions of public and housing accommodation protections for individuals who rely on service animals. The CCR calls on City Staff to update codes and guidelines which apply to local businesses, places of public accommodation, and housing providers and then develop and implement outreach and public information campaigns to ensure housing providers and places of public accommodation are equipped to accommodate individuals who rely on service animals and understand their roles and responsibilities.

ISSUE:

The City's Disability Access Office is working with the Neighborhood and Housing Services Department to determine what resources would be needed to conduct a review of federal, state and local legislation to determine options for expanding local protections for individuals who rely on service animals and to determine options for a public information campaign.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is a briefing only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is a briefing only.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends referral to the Planning and Community Development Committee for discussion.