



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**  
**{{item.tracking\_number}}**

---

**Agenda Item Number:** 2

**Agenda Date:** March 8, 2022

**In Control:** Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee

---

**DEPARTMENT:** Health Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Claude Jacob

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

An overview of domestic violence programs managed by Metro Health and a briefing on the possibility of requiring places of public accommodation to post domestic violence and human trafficking prevention signage.

**SUMMARY:**

Metro Health would like to provide an update on domestic violence programming in response to the Council Consideration Request filed by councilmember Manny Pelaez on October 18, 2021 giving direction to City staff to draft an ordinance to require that all places of public accommodation display in bathrooms clearly visible signage featuring domestic violence and sex trafficking prevention resources.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Metro Health presented background information on this Council Consideration Request at the Governance Committee meeting on January 11, 2022. At the time the Department

recommendation was to send the response to the Community, Health, Equity, and Culture Committee for further review of response recommendations.

Domestic violence is also called family violence, domestic battering, spousal abuse, domestic abuse, and intimate partner violence. Regardless of the name, at the heart of domestic violence is the attempt by one person to use power and control over another person in a physical, economic, or emotional way. This power struggle can shape many abusive behaviors, including stalking, physical violence, sexual violence, mental abuse, and emotional abuse. While human trafficking and sex trafficking can be a part of intimate partner violence, they also have unique risks and encompass other forms of abuse and human rights violations. For example, abusive partners may use physical force, coercion, and violence to compel participation in sex work. Abusive partners may also force other forms of labor without pay.

Current estimates are that 1 in 3 women in Texas and 1 in 4 men in Texas has experienced domestic violence. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, of the more than 50,000 people trafficked in the United States every year, 25% pass through Texas. Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking are underreported. Many individuals in need of support do not know where to get assistance.

As a part of the FY22 approved budget, Metro Health was given additional funding to support an expansion of the Domestic Violence Program. The expansion includes four primary initiatives:

- Crisis Response Team Victim Advocate program expansion
- Domestic Violence Case Management expansion
- Enhanced Domestic Violence Evaluation and Data-driven Strategies
- Expanded Community Education Initiatives

## **ISSUE:**

The CCR includes several topics that were identified as part of the City of San Antonio Comprehensive Domestic Violence Prevention Plan. In coordination with University Health, the City of San Antonio developed decals in both English and Spanish for placement in bathrooms with resources related to domestic violence. To date, close to 10,000 have been distributed to businesses, city facilities, school districts, and community partners interested in providing support. Additionally, Metro Health food inspectors provided decals during their routine inspections of restaurants. In the Spring of 2020, Metro Health and Convention and Sports Facilities Department developed signage related to human trafficking. Finalization and placement of the signage was delayed by the onset of the pandemic.

Amplification of existing efforts, including development of additional signage and opportunities for placement, would be an excellent approach to increase visibility of resources available to individuals experiencing domestic violence and human trafficking.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

none at this time

**ALTERNATIVES:**

No alternatives are recommended

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends distribution of domestic violence decals to all City facilities and completing human trafficking signage to be posted at all City facilities. In addition, staff recommends reaching out to chambers of commerce and to schools to determine their willingness and capacity to voluntarily post signage if provided by Metro Health.