



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 3

Agenda Date: April 27, 2023

In Control: Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee

DEPARTMENT: Department of Arts and Culture

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Krystal Jones

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: District 4

SUBJECT:

Process for developing a memorial for migrants who lost their lives on June 27, 2022.

SUMMARY:

Following a request from District 4 Councilwoman Adriana Rocha Garcia, City staff developed a process for collecting community feedback and engaging artists to develop a memorial in honor of the 53 migrants who lost their lives on June 27, 2022, when left inside an abandoned tractor trailer on Quintana Road.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On June 27, 2022, a tractor trailer carrying 64 migrants was abandoned on the shoulder of Quintana Rd. on the southside of San Antonio in District 4. The migrants, who had been trafficked from the border, were left inside the non-air-conditioned trailer in extreme heat for several hours. By the time first responders arrived on the scene, 48 of the migrants had died. Another 16 were

hospitalized in local hospitals, and later, five more died. In total, 53 migrants from Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras lost their lives in the tragedy, with the youngest victim only 13 years old.

The victims of this tragedy are now honored with wooden crosses bearing the name of each person who lost their life with mementos including photos, artificial flowers, bottles of water and candles left at each cross. Due to the narrowness of Quintana Road, it is difficult for many to gather safely at the site to offer condolences. In consideration of the safety of and access to many in San Antonio to honor the migrants and the migrant story, District 4 Councilwoman Adriana Rocha Garcia requested that City staff develop a process for engaging the community in developing a memorial that is artistic and accessible to all.

ISSUE:

The Department of Arts & Culture will provide a briefing on a proposed process for developing a migrant memorial that closely follows the department's Public Art Process for committee feedback.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is a briefing item only. There is no fiscal impact.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is a briefing item only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is a briefing item only.