



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

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2015 JAN 22 AM 9:41

TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: Councilman Alan E. Warrick, II, District 2

COPIES TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Edward Benavides, Chief of Staff; Christopher Callanen, Assistant to the City Council; Martha G. Sepeda, Acting City Attorney; John Peterek, Senior Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Waiver of Alarm Permit Fees for Victims of Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, Sexual Assault and Stalking

DATE: January 14, 2015

Issue Proposed for Consideration

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

Waiver of alarm permit fees for victims of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault and stalking. Currently, Section 25, Chapter IV of the Code of the City of San Antonio states that all alarm system users are required to have an alarm permit upon activation of an alarm system and residential owners are required to pay a fee.

Brief Background

Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking cases occur far too often in our community. These instances of violence are inexcusable and intolerable. Unfortunately, when these violations occur there are far too often too few tools to empower victims. Every possible measure should be taken to ensure that victims are protected from further acts of violence. After having the courage to report these crimes, victims should have every tool at their disposal to protect themselves and their family from further acts of violence. Victim's advocacy groups throughout the nation recommend the installation of a monitored home security system.

According to public safety officials, monitored home security systems are effective in deterring unwanted or unlawful entry of homes. Security systems may give victims an added sense of security within their home. According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 81% of victims who experienced rape, stalking, or physical violence reported significant short- or long-term impacts such as post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms and injury. We aim to reduce this percentage by encouraging installation of security systems by removing any financial barrier such as the alarm permit fee. It is also our intention to increase awareness of abuse within our community and encourage private alarm companies to subsidize or provide alarm systems for victims.

Currently, homes with alarm systems within the city of San Antonio are required to pay a nominal fee for an alarm permit. This ordinance seeks to waive alarm permit fees for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking cases. This ordinance will also waive the alarm permit fees

for anyone who is registered with the Victim Services Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or other law enforcement agencies.

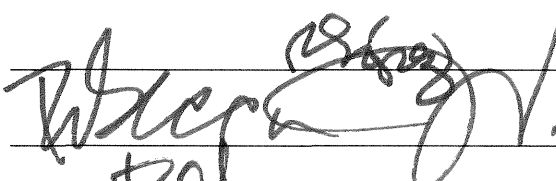



Submitted for Council consideration
by:



Councilman Alan E. Warrick, II, District 2

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

District No.

1.		6
2.		3
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