



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

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CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
CITY CLERK

2020 JUL 30 PM 4:15

TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: Melissa Cabello Havrda

COPIES TO: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Tina Flores, City Clerk; Emily McGinn, Assistant to the City Council; Andrew Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager

SUBJECT: Removing Regulatory Barriers to Urban Farms

DATE: July 30, 2020

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 City Council:

Concurrence in directing staff to examine the City Code, including the building and trade codes and the Unified Development Code, to identify potential barriers to Urban Farms and develop solutions to these barriers.

As this will likely require extensive stakeholder and public participation, and given the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency this item should not proceed to Council until it has satisfied the SA Speak Up process.

Brief Background

Urban Farms serve important community purposes, including environmental services, community food security, economic generation, and community and neighborhood building.

In addition, urban farms and other urban agriculture can reduce ground-level ozone and improve air quality, extend expected longevity for vulnerable populations and result in reduced disparity in expected longevity, reduce urban heat island effects, reduce standing water in areas of inadequate drainage and resulting vector-borne diseases, reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, i.e. increase mental health, result in improved flooding infrastructure, responses to flooding, reduce crime focused on vulnerable zip codes, increase safety and security in the community.

Development Services worked with the Food Policy Council of San Antonio to develop an initial package of Unified Development Code (UDC) Amendments in 2015. Since then, the implementation of the 2015 UDC Amendments has identified additional barriers faced by Urban Farms in order to begin operations. DSD continued to meet with the Food Policy Council in 2018-19 to develop solutions to many of these barriers, which resulted in the issuance of Information Bulletin 571 in March 2019.

This CCR is intended to identify additional opportunities for Urban Farms to succeed and develop solutions through code modifications.

Submitted for Council consideration
by:



Councilwoman Melissa Cabello Havrda, District 6

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

District No.

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