

**State of Texas
County of Bexar
City of San Antonio**



**DRAFT
Meeting Minutes
City Council B Session**

City Hall Complex
105 Main Plaza
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

The City Council of San Antonio convened in the “B” Room of the Municipal Plaza Building. City Clerk Leticia Vacek took the Roll Call noting the following Councilmembers present:

PRESENT: 10 - Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Shaw, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Brockhouse, Sandoval, Courage, and Perry

ABSENT: 1 - Pelaez

Mrs. Vacek announced that Councilmember Pelaez was out on personal business.

Mayor Nirenberg recognized Councilmember Rey Saldaña who was celebrating his birthday today. The City Council wished Councilmember Saldaña a Happy Birthday.

1. Briefing by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District regarding the final report and accomplishments of the Joint Opioid Overdose Prevention Task Force. [Erik Walsh, Deputy City Manager; Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Director, Health]

Sheryl Sculley stated that the Joint Opioid Overdose Prevention Task Force was established in August 2017 by Mayor Nirenberg and Judge Nelson Wolff to address the increase in opioid overdoses in San Antonio and Bexar County. She noted that Dr. Colleen Bridger and

Dr. Bryan Alsip co-chaired the Task Force in collaboration with over 30 subject matter experts and stakeholders.

Dr. Bridger stated that the number of deaths related to opioid overdose quadrupled since 1999 and 100 Americans died of overdose daily. She noted that Bexar County ranked third in the nation for per capita deaths from opioid overdoses and ranked first in Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). She stated that the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) would become mandatory for licensed physicians and dentists in 2019 to monitor patient opioid use. She noted that opioids act on opioid receptors in the nervous system and serve to lessen pain but are also addictive. She reviewed the history of changes in opioid-related deaths and the national distribution of drug overdoses. She stated that Texas allowed the appointment of non-physicians as coroners to determine causes of death which likely resulted in under-reporting of opioid-related deaths. She outlined the rise of opioid use including increased use of heroin and fentanyl.

Dr. Bridger described the following strategies to address the opioid epidemic: Reduce opioid prescriptions; Encourage use of PMPs; Expand naloxone use; Community education; Provider education; and Treatment. She stated that the Task Force utilized the following workgroups: Naloxone; Provider Education; Community Education; and Treatment. She noted that the Task Force secured \$11 million in Grant Funds to address opioid use. She stated that the Naloxone Workgroup expanded access to naloxone, conducted trainings for Law Enforcement and the community, monitored naloxone use, and mapped EMS utilization of naloxone by zip code. She noted that the Provider Education Workgroup designed an opioid-related training curriculum map for medical students, launched the “Get Waivered SA” website, conducted provider education regarding the required use of PMP in 2019, and held discussions with Healthcare Access San Antonio to link to the PMP. She stated that the Community Education Workgroup mapped permanent drug drop-off locations, distributed Detera to reduce environmental contamination from disposed drugs, developed a youth prevention toolkit and videos for Independent School Districts, created a treatment map for the community, and conducted community trainings. She noted that the Treatment Workgroup identified and mapped existing treatment providers, selected a federal framework to determine the treatment options to map, and worked with the Community Education Workgroup to develop a treatment map for the community.

Dr. Bridger stated that legislative initiatives included testimony before the Texas House Select Committee on Opioids and Substance Abuse, providing written recommendation for the Select Committee Report, and meeting with a Congressional Delegation and Agency Staff during the SA to DC Trip. She noted that complementary initiatives included identification of treatment and recovery options for NAS and the Syringe Services Program (SSP). She stated that the next step was to examine substance use disorder, mental health prevention, and treatment more broadly.

T.J. Mayes thanked collaborating parties for their participation with the Task Force and noted ongoing efforts to address the opioid crisis.

Mayor Nirenberg commended the Task Force for their efforts.

Councilmember Viagran noted the importance of utilizing the faith-based community to address the opioid crisis and asked of reporting mechanisms for citizens witnessing potential opioid overdoses. Dr. Bridger replied that citizens should call 9-1-1.

Councilmember Gonzales asked of the distribution of Grant Funds. Dr. Bryan Alsip replied that it was divided between Texas Targeted Opioid Response (TTOR), First Responders Care Approach, and NAS efforts. Councilmember Gonzales expressed concern that there was discrimination in practices of opioid testing and removal of children. She requested higher levels of citizen involvement to address the opioid crisis.

Councilmember Sandoval asked of recommended progress measurements. Mr. Mayes replied that staff would be dedicated to tracking progress and maintaining collaboration. Dr. Alsip added that reduction of opioid-related deaths, improved access to treatment sites, and utilization of PMPs would be considered. Councilmember Sandoval asked of the waiver requirement to administer pharmaceutical treatment for opioid use. Dr. Alsip replied that legislation was proposed to remove the waiver requirement and improve access to treatment. Councilmember Sandoval asked if the City's Legislative Agenda included same. Mrs. Sculley replied that it did.

Councilmember Courage asked of working with additional community entities to address the opioid crisis. Mr. Mayes replied that Judge Wolff met the Mayors and City Managers of all cities within Bexar County on a quarterly basis and they were briefed regarding opioid-related initiatives.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 3:30 pm to discuss the following:

- A. Economic development negotiations pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087 (economic development).
- B. The purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 (real property).

- C. Settlement offer in a lawsuit styled Lailson v. City of San Antonio pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

RECONVENED

Councilmember Shaw reconvened the meeting at 6:05 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Councilmember Shaw called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Theresa Berlanga expressed concern with legislative changes that negatively affect handicapped Senior Citizens.

Mayor Nirenberg entered the meeting at this time.

Randy Barnes expressed concern that the Federal Government was not sufficiently notified of proposed changes at Alamo Plaza that may affect Native American remains and artifacts.

Dr. Meredith McGuire spoke in support of the San Antonio Youth for Climate Justice and invited the City Council to an upcoming event regarding radioactive waste.

Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez spoke of biblical prophecies.

San Antonio Youth for Climate Justice spoke in support of San Antonio's Climate Action Plan and additional environmental efforts. They expressed concern with CPS Energy's efforts to transition away from fossil fuels.

Antonio Diaz requested a ceremonial presentation for Indigenous People's Day and expressed concern that Native Americans were not sufficiently involved in plans for Alamo Plaza.

Suzanne Green expressed support for environmental efforts to combat climate change.

Matt Piña spoke of the Harm Principle and noted the importance of individual freedoms. He asked that the Cenotaph remain in place.

Rhett Smith noted the importance of individual freedoms and the First Amendment. He expressed concern that Native Americans were not sufficiently involved in plans for Alamo Plaza.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 6:38 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
MAYOR

ATTEST:

LETICIA M. VACEK, TRMC/CMC/MMC
CITY CLERK