



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

TO: Mayor and City Council
 FROM: Councilman Manny Pelaez, District 8
 COPIES TO: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Christopher Callanen, Assistant to City Council
 SUBJECT: Student Housing Safety Initiative - CCR
 DATE: June 12, 2019

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PROPOSED ISSUE FOR CONSIDERATION:

That COSA staff be directed to develop options (e.g. proposed rules, standards, metrics, incentives, etc.) to enhance protection and security to tenants at apartment complexes surrounding university and college campuses. Staff’s proposal should also serve to facilitate law enforcement investigations and prosecution of criminal activity. Options should be developed in collaboration with key stakeholders such as the San Antonio Apartment Association, Real Estate Council of San Antonio, SAPD, ACCD, universities, and the Bexar County District Attorney.

BACKGROUND:

Multifamily complexes in the area surrounding UTSA and other local colleges or universities have always presented a challenge for university officials and law enforcement. SAPD spends an inordinate amount of time responding to calls from multifamily properties in which the residents are mostly students. Burglaries, noise complaints, and drug crimes are the most frequent reasons for police visits. However, home invasions, violence, and fatal shootings are getting more police attention than before. Additionally, sexual assaults and intimate partner violence at student housing facilities continue to challenge law enforcement and school administrators.

SAPD and campus police agree that many student housing facilities have inadequate lighting in their parking lots, exterior hallways, and common areas. This lighting inadequacy makes it easier for criminals to operate undetected by victims or the management companies that oversee the operations at these apartment complexes.



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SAPD and campus police report that their investigations are frequently frustrated by the lack of video evidence that would permit them to document the crimes, identify perpetrators, and identify the perpetrators' vehicles. Oftentimes, law enforcement must rely on vague witness descriptions of perpetrators. More often than not, there are no witnesses to the crimes.

UTSA administration has requested that COSA establish some minimal standards to be applied to off-campus apartments including but not limited to: 1. Cameras and archiving of recorded video to be provided to SAPD for purposes of investigating crimes, 2. Proper maintenance of entry gates, and 3. Adequate lighting in parking lots and common areas.



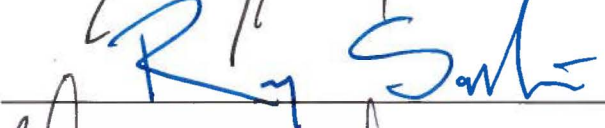
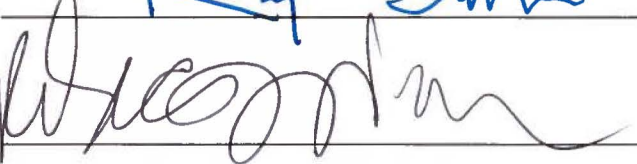
Additionally, student housing facilities owners and operators have expressed a desire for better coordination with law enforcement and improved policing strategies that would result in quicker response, more effective crime prevention, and coordination with university and college stakeholders.

SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION



COUNCILMAN PELAEZ, DISTRICT 8

SUPPORTING COUNCILMEMBERS

- | | | DISTRICT |
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