



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

19 AUG -2 PM 3:57

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TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Councilman Manny Pelaez  
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: Hospice Care  
DATE: August 2, 2019

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:

Direct COSA staff to develop a plan to offer and/or enhance palliative and hospice care services for homeless San Antonians. Such a proposed plan should focus on partnerships with healthcare providers, hospital systems, the faith-based organizations, medical schools, nursing schools, as well as homeless service organizations.

Brief Background

Each year homeless San Antonians, many of them military veterans, die on our streets due to a terminal illness. They die without the benefit of palliative and/or hospice services. They die alone and in pain — pain that could be easily managed. This is not in keeping with our status as a compassionate city and requires thoughtful application of the equity lens.

Palliative care and hospice experts in San Antonio abound. Some of San Antonio's hospitals, not-for-profit agencies, and faith-based organizations are already providing some palliative and hospice care for homeless patients, but their programs are underfunded, their effectiveness is difficult to measure, and their coordination is unstructured. COSA can and should provide coordinated resources and assistance to the organizations that are doing this important work.

Other cities have adopted programs to provide assistance to homeless and indigent people diagnosed with chronic and terminal illnesses. Their programs cater to those people who have been told by a physician that they have few months to live. Some of the programs provide support services and case management, while local palliative care and hospice providers provide medical supervision, medications and death-with-dignity hospice services.



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I propose that San Antonio develop a palliative and hospice care program informed by other programs' best practices and benchmarked metrics.

*Manny Pelaez*

Submitted for Council consideration by:

Councilman Manny Pelaez, District 8

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

District

1. *Jada Rodriguez-Sullivan*  
2. *[Signature]*  
3. *[Signature]*  
4. *[Signature]*

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*4*  
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