



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

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TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Councilwoman Shirley Gonzales, District 5
COPIES TO: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Tina J. Flores, City Clerk; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Emily McGinn, Interim Assistant to City Council
SUBJECT: Cesar Chavez Holiday
DATE: February 5, 2021

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:

For the creation of an annual city holiday on the last Monday of March to honor Cesar Chavez

Brief Background

Cesar Chavez is an iconic leader in the civil rights movement. His work, alongside Dolores Huerta, focusing on Latino and farm labor rights, Chavez was unrelenting in pushing for fair treatment and acknowledgement of farm workers. Being told that it was impossible to organize farm workers, Cesar Chavez set out on to show “si se puede” and created the United Farm Workers of America (UFWA). Under the farm workers movement Chavez began a burial program, helath clinics, day care centers and job training programs. He built affordable housing and two farm worker radio stations, which is now the Radio Campesina network. Cesar has had numerous streets, schools, scholarships and other buildings and programs named after him.

Chavez' work is well known in San Antonio. He visited our city on several occasions: in 1969 he spoke at Kennedy High School where he announced that the iconic Centeno grocery store, as well as its patrons in the heart of the Westside, had joined the UFWA movement in solidarity with the farmworker cause. He returned several times to speak to and inspire generations of local community workers and labor leaders. Their inspired work has had a lasting effect on the betterment of families across our city.

In 2000, Texas Governor Rick Perry signed into law that Cesar Chavez day, March 31st, would be an optional holiday. The United States government followed suit in 2014 when President Obama proclaimed March 31st as a federal holiday in the United States. I ask that the city of San Antonio follow suit and make the last Monday of March a city employee holiday.







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Submitted for Council consideration by:


Councilwoman Shirley Gonzales, District 5

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

District

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