

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



**FINAL
Meeting Minutes
City Council B Session**

City Hall Complex
105 Main Plaza
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Wednesday, May 29, 2019

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 a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

PRESENT: 10 - Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Hall, Viagran, Saldaña, Brockhouse, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

ABSENT: 1 - Gonzales

City Clerk Vacek announced that Councilmember Gonzales was out of town and would not be present.

1. Briefing on the Status of Women in San Antonio Report commissioned by the City of San Antonio. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Interim Assistant City Manager; Jennifer Herriott, MPH, Interim Director, Health]

Dr. Colleen Bridger recognized Dr. Rogelio Saenz and Lily Casura of the University of Texas at San Antonio for authoring the 75-page Report on the Status of Women in San Antonio. She noted that a brief report would be presented which was prepared by Jesus Fonseca and Dr. Golareh Agha.

Dr. Agha presented the demographics of the San Antonio and highlighted data within the categories of Health & Well-being, Economic Opportunities, Political Participation, and Violence & Safety. She reported that within the Health & Well-being Category; the infant mortality and maternal mortality rates in San Antonio were higher than in Travis, Dallas, and Harris Counties. She highlighted the City of San Antonio's efforts to increase Health and Well-being to include implementing programs such as Healthy Start and Healthy Beats. She stated that within the Economic Opportunities Category; the proportion of San Antonio's women in the workforce remains virtually unchanged over the last 12 years. She reported that 63% of women in San Antonio were employed, compared to 72% of men. She stated that women's median earnings as a percent of men's median earnings rose from 77% in 2005 to 82% in 2017; however, it was attributed to men losing ground in their wages after adjusting for inflation. Among the most educated workers; women make only 72 cents for every \$1 men make. Additionally, approximately 8% of women in San Antonio are considered "working poor"; they are gainfully employed full-time yet fall below the poverty level. She mentioned the educational and skill training provided by the Economic and Workforce Development Department to increase economic opportunities for women.

Dr. Agha noted that within Political Participation; 44% of Board and Commission Members were women. She reported that the Government and Public Affairs Department had implemented the SASpeakUp Initiative to increase civic engagement and public participation. Within the Violence & Safety Category, she stated that women were more likely to be killed in Bexar County than in Travis, Dallas, and Harris Counties. She noted that the Metro Health Department had implemented the Stand Up SA Program. It addresses violence in San Antonio and works with mothers of gun violence victims. Lastly, she mentioned that the City of San Antonio would use the information from the report to form the development of policies and programs focused on improving the status of women in San Antonio.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked staff for the presentation and commended everyone that contributed to the report. He recognized Councilmember Gonzales for requesting the data and a status on efforts to improve the status of women in San Antonio. He asked of next steps. Dr. Bridger replied that the first two years of their strategic plan would focus on Domestic Violence and staff was developing a comprehensive plan on prevention.

Councilmember Pelaez thanked staff for the presentation and noted that there was a great amount of information that he was not aware of. He stated that he would like to see data such as bankruptcy filings, homelessness & evictions, crimes committed locally, and mental health in order to identify the appropriate delivery of services.

Councilmember Viagran stated that she was pleased with the reporting data provided and looked forward to efforts to improve the status of women in San Antonio. She asked how

staff would increase public participation. Laura Mayes stated that the Government and Public Affairs Department was tracking demographics of survey respondents while Dr. Bridger added that a collaboration among the Office of the City Clerk and Office of Equity are working to track board member demographics to increase civic engagement. Councilmember Viagran requested a breakdown of female Councilmembers in Austin, Dallas, and Houston and asked of systemic flaws within the Small Business Economic Development Advocacy (SBEDA) Program. Rene Dominguez referenced the Disparity Study every five years that helps drive policy and is used to update the SBEDA Program.

Councilmember Sandoval thanked everyone for their work. She stated that the report would serve as a baseline and could be utilized to track progress in the future. She expressed support for addressing the issue of Domestic Violence through a strategic plan and would like to discuss further during the Budget Goal Setting Session.

Councilmember Treviño stated that this was great information and thanked everyone involved. He noted the issues of Domestic Violence for single mothers such as his own and how they affect the entire family. Councilmember Courage expressed his support but noted that there was a lot more work to be done.

Councilmember Saldaña commended his female colleagues for recognizing the importance of going through this exercise. He spoke of the need for San Antonio Police Officers to encourage victims of Domestic Violence to engage with a nonprofit organization. Mr. Walsh stated that they would work with San Antonio Police Officers to take an added approach and provide more latitude in these instances. However, he noted that it would require a change in State Law.

Councilmember Perry thanked everyone for their work. He referenced the murder rate being tracked from 2012 through 2017 and stated that he would like to see data from that timeframe for all of the statistics reported.

Mayor Nirenberg referenced the Domestic Violence Task Force and stated that he looked forward to learning more about their role. He spoke of the importance of metrics in order to track progress and the need for improvement in many areas. He thanked everyone for the presentation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 3:25 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.** Legal issues related to collective bargaining pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- D.** Legal issues related to the creation of a water district pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E.** Legal issues relating to state or federal grant requirements pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

RECONVENED

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 5:30 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session. He addressed the Ceremonial Items.

CEREMONIALS

Mayor Nirenberg presented Certificates of Election to Councilmembers Treviño, Viagran, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry who were declared elected from the General Election of May 4, 2019. City Clerk Vacek administered the Oath of Office & Statement of Elected Officer to Councilmembers Treviño, Viagran, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry.

The Scholarship Committee of the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission presented their 2019 Scholarship Recipients. They provided \$100,000 in scholarship awards to 25 local high school students and noted that funding was provided by local businesses, community groups, and City Councilmembers. Each recipient was presented with a scholarship award, congratulatory certificate, commemorative medal, and took a photo with Mayor Nirenberg.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Nirenberg called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Nazirite Perez referenced an article regarding the Pope and abortion and noted concerns with this practice.

Robert Dow spoke in support of the abolishment of abortion in San Antonio and read

passages from The Bible.

Kathy Sosa spoke of domestic violence and the status of women, expressing concern with the statistics reported for Bexar County. She commended Councilmembers Gonzales and Pelaez for their leadership on the issue.

Lori Rodriguez thanked the City Councilmembers for their leadership on domestic violence and shared her personal story in dealing with said issue.

Antonio Diaz requested that the Christopher Columbus Statue be removed from its park.

Diana Uriegas congratulated the City Councilmembers that were elected. She asked everyone to listen to the words to the song, "Testify to Love."

Fidel Belmarez spoke of the need to end abortion as it was the destruction of human life. He presented the City Councilmembers with copies of The Bible.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 6:33 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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