

City of San Antonio



Public Comment

No in-person access to this meeting

Wednesday, August 12, 2020

5:00 PM

Videoconference

ROLL CALL

The City Council convened in a Regular Meeting. Acting City Clerk Tina J. Flores took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

PRESENT: 11 - Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Andrews-Sullivan, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Gonzales, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

Public Hearing

1. Public Hearing for the \$22,350,369 FY 2021 Action Plan and Budget for the four federal grant programs funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Veronica R. Soto, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services Department]

Mayor Nirenberg called on the citizens registered to speak at the public hearing.

Teri Castillo stated that the working people of San Antonio needed assistance and meaningful action now. She noted that failing to act and mitigate housing displacement perpetuated poverty. She added that failing to produce affordable housing was authorizing disinvestment in the community and the most vulnerable.

Sandy Armendariz expressed her support for allocating funds for home ownership. She noted that more families deserved to be homeowners through Habitat for Humanity.

Crystal Garza expressed support for the Home Ownership Development Fund because the City needed more quality and affordable home ownership opportunities. She indicated that the City should continue to work with Habitat for Humanity because it was an effective program.

Michael Taylor spoke in favor of the staff recommendation to allocate \$1.625 million for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), \$1.25 million in Home Investment Partnership Program funds for single family home ownership, and \$300,000 for charitable operating expenses. He stated that with the City's continued and consistent support for affordable home ownership, Habitat for Humanity would continue to provide high quality homes which were affordable for hard working, low income families.

Rich Acosta asked the City Council to ensure a focus on affordable housing at 30% Average Median Income (AMI) because income-based apartments were full and had a six-month waiting list.

Natalie Griffith stated that Habitat for Humanity supported the funding recommendation. She noted that it was important to the community that more families had the option of affordable home ownership. She added that more citizens want and deserve the stability, strength, and self-reliance which home ownership provided.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that as there were no other comments, the Public Hearing for the HUD Action Plan was closed and the City Council would vote on this item on August 13, 2020.

Public Comment

2. Public Comment is your opportunity to address your City of San Antonio elected officials directly about issues that are important to you and your community. To sign-up to speak, please go to www.sanantonio.gov/agenda and click on the eComment link for instructions. Members of the public can sign up online to speak before the San Antonio City Council. Members of the public are given up to three (3) minutes to speak, and groups are given up to nine (9) minutes.

Roger Fisher stated that the actions of the Mayor and City Council should not be forced on taxpayers. He noted that the City Council encouraged and participated in protests and have failed to protect parks and monuments.

Jourdyn Parks gave an example of someone in her family who died at the hands of police in 1968 which sparked a revolt. She stated that as a result, a Civilian Review Board was established. She asked what the statute of limitations was for murder. She called for justice and the reallocation of funds from the Police to Public Health and Education.

Steve Versteeg encouraged the City Council to match equity regarding the Unified Development Code.

Ananda Tomas requested that the Mayor and Council reallocate funding from the police budget back into community. She noted that Council should be bold in CBA negotiations.

Jacob Tucker stated that the voices of the rich overshadowed the voices of the poor and middle class. He noted that voices were ignored during the vote on the CARES Act. He stated that City Council and the school districts should open schools according to health metrics. He indicated that Public Officials' choices have compromised the effects of the pandemic. He added that policy makers have historically collaborated with the rich.

James Dykman spoke on resolutions presented to City Council at today's meeting. He stated that SAPOA was a barrier to police discipline and the CBA included a costly and unjust arbitration process paid for by the taxpayer.

Victor Johnson played a song.

Pharaoh Clark stated that communities have been abandoned with insufficient funds for medical aid, to assist the elderly, but there were funds to fund the police.

Jemm Corona-Morris stated that the police could not arrest problems away. He indicated that the Mayor and City Council should allow Collective Bargaining to be open to the public.

Justice Martinez stated that he was a native of San Antonio. He requested that the police be defunded and those funds be put into social services. He stated that we must take care of citizens and police most often create crime via abuse and fear.

Antonio Diaz stated that funding for public housing should be increased and the Columbus statue should not be returned to a public park. He called for removal of the Columbus street name.

Sierrah Billington stated that she was hit by an aggressive driver and the Police Officer who came to the scene was unresponsive. She called for defunding the police.

Krystal Haywood played a speech.

Irma Hofmann submitted written testimony asking the City Council to support funding for homes which need repair. She stated that when homes were cared for, neighborhoods would reflect the care and pride of the residents of the City.

Public Comments have been submitted through the eComment System and are attached to the Minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 6:16 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
Mayor

Attest:

TINA J. FLORES
Acting City Clerk

