



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number: 13-1013

Agenda Item Number: 42.

Agenda Date: 11/21/2013

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD)

DEPARTMENT HEAD: John Dugan

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Council Districts 2 & 3

SUBJECT:

Promise Zone Designation

SUMMARY:

The Promise Zone initiative will revitalize high-poverty communities in the city by attracting private investment, improving affordable housing, improving educational opportunities, creating jobs, reducing serious and violent crime, and assisting local leaders in navigating federal programs. Promise Zone offers children the safe, healthy environment they need to succeed, residents with quality choices of where to live and incentivize private stakeholders to invest within Promise Zone.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Building on previous efforts that provided proven tools to combat poverty in partnership with private business and federal, state, and local officials; faith-based and non-profit organizations, in his 2013 State of the Union Address, the President laid out an initiative to designate a number of high-poverty communities as Promise Zones, where the federal government will partner with and invest in communities to create jobs, leverage private investment, increase economic activity, expand educational opportunities, and improve public safety.

Communities will compete in a transparent process, and be required to demonstrate the strength and effectiveness of their local commitment, to become Promise Zones. Each designated Promise Zone will be asked to identify a set of outcomes they will pursue to revitalize their communities, develop a strategy supporting those outcomes, and realign resources accordingly. For communities selected, the federal government will partner to help the Promise Zones access the resources and expertise they need.

The Obama Administration will designate 20 communities over the next four years - including up to five this year - with an intensive and layered approach to revitalizing communities.

This approach includes working with local leadership, and bringing to bear the resources of a number of the President's signature revitalization initiatives from the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Agriculture to ensure that federal programs and resources support the efforts to turn around 20 of the highest poverty urban, rural and tribal communities across the country.

ISSUE:

The DPCD seeks approval from City Council to submit and subsequently accept the Promise Zone designation should the City be acknowledged as such. If City Council does not approve this request, the City will not take advantage of another opportunity to assist residents with revitalizing high-poverty communities through the provision of the Promise Zone designation.

ALTERNATIVES:

City Council may direct staff to identify alternative methods for addressing issues of poverty within the City of San Antonio.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this Ordinance.