



# City of San Antonio

## Legislation Details (With Text)

**File #:** 15-2632

**Type:** Staff Briefing - Without Ordinance

**In control:** Governance Committee

**On agenda:** 4/15/2015

**Title:** A Briefing and possible action on a request from District 2 Councilmember Alan Warrick relating to the historic district designation process. [Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager; Shanon Miller, Office of Historic Preservation]

**Sponsors:**

**Indexes:**

**Code sections:**

**Attachments:**

| Date | Ver. | Action By | Action | Result |
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**DEPARTMENT:** Office of Historic Preservation

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Shanon Miller

### SUBJECT:

Potential amendments to the Unified Development Code relating to historic district designation and removing penalties associated with demolition by neglect cases

### SUMMARY:

District 2 Councilman Alan Warrick has submitted a City Council Resolution to amend the process for initiating a new historic district and to remove penalties associated with the demolition of historic properties. These changes will require an amendment to Article 6, Sections 35-605 and 35-615, of the Unified Development Code (UDC)

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The current designation process outlined in UDC Section 35-605 was changed by City Council in December 2012. Under the current historic designation process, once the City receives an application for an eligible historic district, the City conducts an informational meeting for all owners in the potential historic district. The proponents must submit a petition demonstrating support from owners of at least 30 percent of the

properties within the proposed district boundary in order to initiate the public hearing process. The application shall remain valid for two years. Once the petition is verified, the City initiates the public hearing process at the Historic and Design Review Commission, the Zoning Commission, and the City Council. Ultimately, historic designation is a zoning change, which is a decision under the purview of the Mayor and City Council exclusively.

The three changes proposed to Section 35-605 would amend the percentage of owner support required to initiate the public hearing process to 51%, require the City to facilitate the voting process, and change the length of time during which an application will remain valid to one year.

The fourth proposed change would amend UDC Section 35-615, which outlines penalties for historic buildings that are demolished as a public safety hazard. Currently, if a historic building is found to be in violation and is demolished, then no application for a permit for a project on the property may be considered for a period of five years from the date of demolition of the building or structure. Councilman Warrick proposes to remove the five-year penalty.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Governance Committee refer this item to the Infrastructure and Growth Committee for consideration.