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COUSA - CITY CLERK
2025 JUN 27 AM 10:32

TO: Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk
FROM: Councilmember Marina Alderete Gavito, Council District 7
COPIES: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; Joe Frank Picazo, Assistant to the City Manager; Emily McGinn, Assistant to the City Council
SUBJECT: Expanding Transportation to Senior Centers
DATE: June 27, 2025

Issue for Proposed Consideration

After coordinating this Council Consideration Request (CCR) with the City Manager, I respectfully request for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

Requesting consideration of Expanding Transportation to Senior Centers.

Brief Background

With the older adult population expected to grow over the next several decades, it is increasingly important that local resources are dedicated to adequately supporting these members of our community. According to the World Health Organization (2024), between 2015 and 2050, the proportion of the world's population over 60 years of age is expected to nearly double from 12% to 22%.

Older adults face a number of potential difficulties, with loneliness being a top concern. Factors such as changes in health and social connections, hearing, vision, and memory loss, disability, trouble getting around, and/or the loss of family and friends can put older adults at a higher risk of social isolation (National Institute on Aging, 2024). As such, it is of great importance that we ensure residents have access to senior centers, which provide opportunities for social connection, physical activity, and nutritional fulfillment.

Currently, there are 12 comprehensive senior centers and four part-time senior centers operated by the City of San Antonio that provide support for older adults (Appendix A). These centers



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offer nutrition services, resources, and supportive programming to residents of Bexar County who are 60 years of age or meet certain other criteria.

In Bexar County in 2021, 24.4% of households had at least one person over the age of 65 living there (SA2020, 2023). The city's senior centers are popular amongst residents, with the Doris Griffin Senior Center in Council District 7 alone serving 2073 active participants. The city's Department of Human Services currently offers transportation to and from city-operated senior centers for participants living within a five-mile radius of their respective center.

Transportation can be one of the greatest barriers for older adults attending medical appointments, engaging in social activity, or even shopping for necessities. The current five-mile radius for free transportation to senior centers neglects some growing parts of the city and county on the outskirts of town, which all contain increasing populations of older adults (Appendix A). It is crucial that the city make efforts to reduce barriers for older adults being able to participate in senior center programming.

Request

I respectfully request that the City of San Antonio make the following efforts to address transportation barriers for older adults who attend senior centers:

1. Expand the five-mile radius to eight miles in such a way that does not hinder the health or safety of senior center users.
2. Partner with VIA to come up with innovative solutions to this problem.
3. Engage with Bexar County officials to explore possible partnership or funding agreements, as county-only residents also utilize the city's senior centers.
4. Explore potential funding sources outside of the general fund, such as state or federal grants, bond funding, or public-private partnerships.



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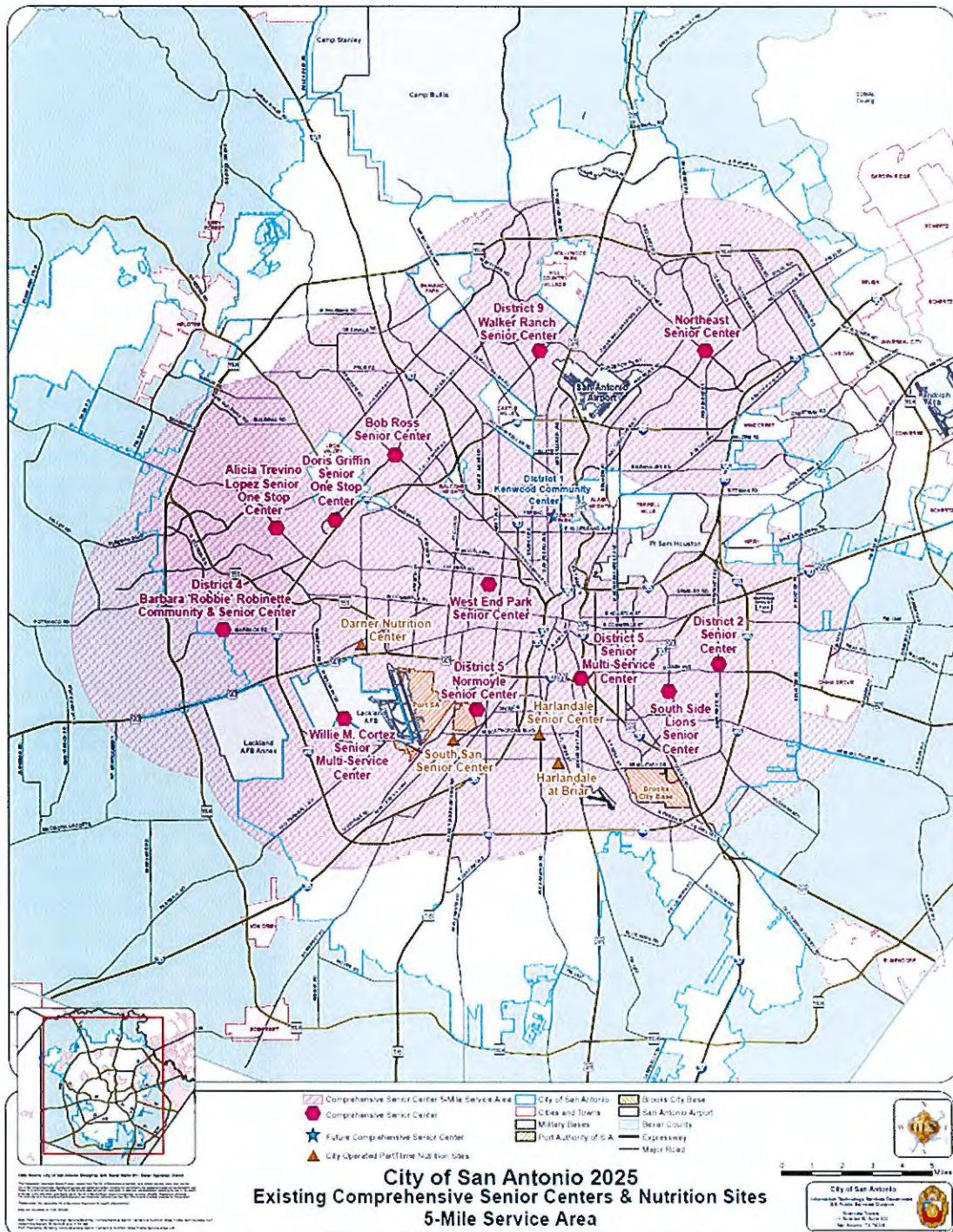
References

- National Institute on Aging. (2024, July 11). *Loneliness and Social Isolation — Tips for Staying Connected*. National Institute on Aging. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/loneliness-and-social-isolation/loneliness-and-social-isolation-tips-staying-connected>
- SA2020. (2023, 01 01). *SA2020 City Council Profiles*. SA2020.org. <https://sa2020.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/SA2020-City-Council-Profiles-2023-Digital.pdf>
- World Health Organization. (2024, October 1). *Ageing and health*. World Health Organization (WHO). Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ageing-and-health>



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Appendix A





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Submitted for Council consideration by: Marina Alderete Gavito
Councilmember Marina Alderete Gavito

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (exactly 4)

District

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | <u>Enrique D. Garcia</u> | <u>9</u> |
| 2. | <u>M. R. Lopez</u> | <u>10</u> |
| 3. | <u>Ricardo Lopez</u> | <u>6</u> |
| 4. | <u>Ed M. ...</u> | <u>4</u> |