



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

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TO: Mayor & City Council
FROM: Roberto Treviño
COPIES TO: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Tina Flores, City Clerk; Emily McGinn,
Assistant to the City Council; Andrew Segovia, City Attorney; John
Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager
SUBJECT: Creation of a Food and Beverage Worker Relief Program
DATE: October 6, 2020

Issue Proposed for Consideration

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the City Council:

Concurrence in directing staff to examine the feasibility of creating a Food and Beverage Worker Relief Program for local Food and Beverage businesses devastated by COVID-19.

Brief Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused widespread unemployment and led to the shuttering of businesses of all sizes across the country. While businesses have applied for public or private grants, a majority of independent businesses and their needs have been excluded. As many food and beverage businesses attempt to rebuild, the health and safety restrictions in place make it difficult to make up such significant losses while retaining skilled employees. Well-known local establishments have reported that they are losing long-time employees who cannot afford to wait out the existing COVID-19 restrictions.

According to the Census Bureau, as many as 80,000 work in the Food and Beverage industry in the San Antonio area. The September 3, 2020 BLS San Antonio Area Economic Summary showed a 14.5% decrease in Leisure and Hospitality (which includes the Food and Beverage sector) employment from July 2019 to July 2020.

Data from the San Antonio Housing Policy Framework indicates 48% of San Antonio renters are cost burdened while it takes \$18 an hour to afford San Antonio's median rent. The report also asserted, "there are numerous jobs that are critical to the service sector including: wait staff, hosts, cooks, cashiers, cleaners, hotel staff, concierges, grounds keepers, and mechanics. And many of these occupations essential to the local economy

pay less than \$15 an hour, which is approximately 60 percent AMI, meaning that an affordable monthly rent for a household supported by one of these jobs is about \$780.”

Given employees in the Food and Beverage sector are more likely to rent. And, given the economic impact of COVID-19 on the Food and Beverage industry has led to reduced payroll and even unemployment, this policy proposes a Food and Beverage Worker Relief Program to:

1. Provide grants to businesses which will help keep them current on payroll and retain staff, and;
2. Provide necessary living expenses to Food and Beverage employees to keep them housed during the pandemic.

Staff is directed to review existing funds, including but not limited to CARES Act or General Fund dollars, and develop a funding plan for a Food and Beverage Worker Relief Program. Relief could take the form of business grants to assist with staffing costs that will keep employees current on food, shelter, and other basic living expenses. Using the equity atlas, payroll and employment data, the Food and Beverage Worker Relief Program should target minority, independent local businesses.

A draft plan will then be presented to The Culture and Neighborhood Services Committee and Economic Development and Workforce Committee.

With proper implementation of the Food and Beverage Worker Relief Program, the City of San Antonio would be providing immediate local economic revitalization. Furthermore, this relief will give a community filled with skilled Food and Beverage employees the boost that it so desperately needs.

Submitted for Council consideration
by:



Councilman Roberto Treviño, District 1

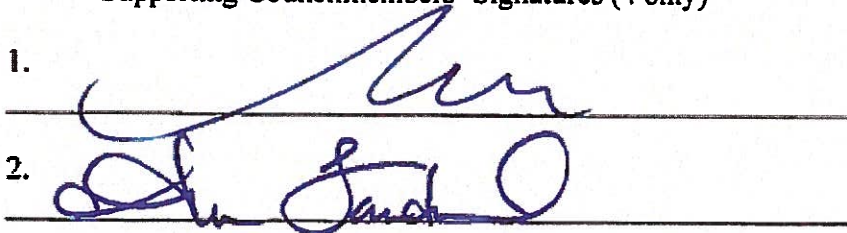
Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

District No.

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Cheryl R

4.

Shirley Gonzales

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