



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

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16 FEB 10 AM 10:01

TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: Councilman Roberto C. Treviño, District 1

COPIES TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; John Peterek, Chief of Staff; Christopher Callanen, Assistant to the City Council; Martha G. Sepeda, Acting City Attorney

SUBJECT: Provision of a Spanish-language Interpreter at Certain Meetings and Public Hearings

DATE: February 3, 2016

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 Governance Committee:

The creation of a dedicated, paid staff person for Spanish-language interpretation services for applicants and other citizens at the meetings and public hearings of certain Boards and Commissions.

Brief Background




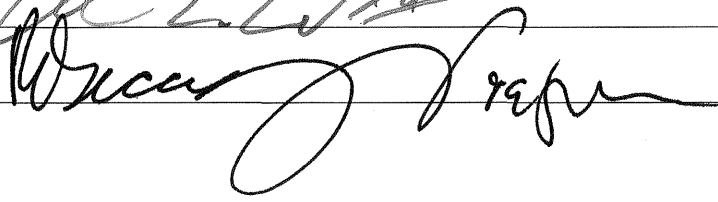
San Antonio has many residents whose primary language is Spanish; however, all City public hearings are conducted in English. This situation produces language barriers and unfair disadvantages to our Spanish-speaking residents. When addressing the Building Standards Board, Historic and Design Review Commission, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment, or the Zoning Commission, an applicant must make their presentation in English. Current policy requires an applicant who cannot present in English to provide an independent, third-party translator. Although this policy prevents a staff interpreter from unfairly translating in such a way that favors City staff's recommendation to the Commission, it also places an additional burden on our Spanish-speaking population. I therefore request that the City create a dedicated paid staff person whose purpose is to provide translation services to applicants and other citizens requesting such services at the meetings and public hearings of the above Boards and Commissions. To protect the integrity of the process as intended by current procedure, the reporting structure should be established in such a way as to minimize potential conflicts of interest. This staff person should remain separate from the case management and review staff of the relevant departments, and should not have prior knowledge of a specific applicant's case or staff's recommendation on that case.

Submitted for Council consideration
by:

Councilman Roberto C. Treviño, District 1

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

District No.

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