

Councilwoman Mari Aguirre-Rodriguez

District 7 Community Report!

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- Public Safety
- Quality of Life

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Council Aide

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Senior Executive



Dear friends,

Fall is finally here and we are quickly approaching the holiday season! Everyone from all over San Antonio will get to enjoy the changing of the seasons and the weather. I have had the pleasure of serving as your City Councilwoman for almost 2 months now and it has been an incredible adventure that has made me understand the challenges that face District 7. I intend to continue to work hard as your community advocate in District 7. Having the opportunity to help meet the needs of the community in which I have been a lifelong resident is a challenge that I have thoroughly enjoyed. San Antonio is a City on the rise and we all have a part in ensuring the future and success of our city and the families that make up District 7.

Over the past few weeks I have been involved in wonderful discussions that range from SA2020, 311 Ambassador Training, and City Council Meetings. The feedback from these discussions has provided valuable information for me to share with fellow councilmembers. Here are the latest updates that have been occurring in District 7 and City Council.

Sincerely,

Mari Aguirre-Rodriguez
Councilwoman District 7



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SA2020 Discussion with District 7

Councilwoman Aguirre-Rodriguez was joined by SA2020 President and CEO David Pund in a discussion on the

Secretary
[Wendy Norberto](#)



Find out what's happening in the City of San Antonio by checking out October's Calendar at [Calendar Updates!](#)



Check out the latest updates for the Department of Culture & Creative Development.

[Get Creative!](#)

Safety Information



Have any questions of concerns about public safety? Please visit San Antonio Police Department website for more information.

[SAPD](#)

Animal Care Services



Interested in adopting a dog or cat? Please visit Animal Care Services website on adopting a pet for your family.

[ACS](#)

progress San Antonio is making towards the shared goals to transform our community into a world-class city by the year 2020 in eleven key vision areas. Sixty primary indicators were created to track our progress. Five have already been met, 16 are on track, 15 are in progress and 9 are still under development. Residents of District 7 were informed by Mr. Byrd that we have already hit our goal for reducing teen births and increasing high school graduation rates but there is still work to do to decrease poverty and increase college enrollment rates. Momentum is being seen in economic competitiveness with growth in the healthcare, IT and transportation manufacturing industries.

No one entity is responsible for the solution; but instead multifunction coalitions across nonprofit, industry and government are coming together to create strategies and policies to find solutions to our community's most pressing problems. The entire progress report is available <http://www.sa2020.org/2014-annual-report/>. You can still get involved in ensuring our entire city succeeds.

Visit www.sa2020.org to learn more, volunteer or donate.



Woodlawn Lake WiFi Room Brainstorm Session

Immediately after District 7's update on SA2020, residents participated in a brainstorming session on how to better utilize the Woodlawn Lake WiFi room. Xavier Urrutia, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Ramiro Salazar, Director of the San Antonio Public Library were on hand to explain the joint effort that both departments share with the WiFi Room at Woodlawn Lake.



The room is unique in that it was created in a collaboration between the two city departments and is the first digital outpost for the library. City officials



are looking for ways to increase its usage and residents presented many ideas for programming, marketing and events. A few ideas included: a book club or movie night (with resources downloaded from the library's digital collection), music classes, gallery showings, afterschool homework help, digital literacy classes using tablets and the suggestion of adding a coffee café.

In addition, better promotion of the room to outside groups for offsite meetings was also recommended to increase awareness of its offerings. These ideas will be looked into more thoroughly and we will keep you informed of any progress and developments.

311 Ambassador Training



On September 27, the city had its first 311 Ambassador Training at Brooks City Base for residents for District 7 and District 3 to learn more about requests for city services. This event was held in collaboration with Councilwoman Rebecca Viagran and included community leaders from both districts. Participants learned the procedures on how 311 works with city departments to respond to people's requests for services and received a tour of the Emergency Operations Center including the call center and the 'pit', a high tech command center used in the management of serious city emergencies.

The 311 Call Center receives 865,000 calls annually and 12,000 open records requests. Please note, there are 4 ways to contact the city for service:

- Customer Service Representatives (311 call center)
- Through your city council district staff members
- Web portal <http://sanantonio.gov/GetConnected/Services.aspx>
- 311 mobile app

In addition, 311 is part of the city's Speakers Bureau in which city representatives are available to speak to your local organization or school regarding city services. For more information contact the Communications and Public Affairs Department at 210.207.7234 or email Terri Salazar at Mari.Salazar@sanantonio.gov.

We especially want to thank our District 7 residents who stepped up to receive this inaugural training: Steve and Diana Martinez from Ingram Hills, Bianca Maldonado from Monticello Park, Michelle Robledo from Braun Station East, and Fred Rangel from Eckhart Crossing.

The 311 Ambassador Program will be held monthly and all participants receive a Certificate of Completion for attending this training program. If you are interested in participating in the next session, please contact Paula Stallcup at paula.stallcup@sanantonio.gov or call 210-207-7983. The next session is scheduled for Saturday, November 1st, 2014 from 9:00 am - 11:00 am.



City Council Updates



City Council met yesterday and I am happy to report it approved the bid for the 2012-2017 Bond Program Project for the reconstruction of sidewalks, curbs and driveway approaches from Zarzamora to Elmendorf with sewer improvements on W. Magnolia as well as SAWS water and sewer adjustments on W. Mistletoe. Project Construction is anticipated to begin in fall of 2014 and is estimated to be completed by March 2015.

In City Council "B" session which occurred on Wednesday, October 1, Councilmembers heard a briefing on the City's State Legislative Program for the 84th State Legislative Session. Prior to the convening of each regular Texas Legislative Session, the City identifies policy priorities and legislative initiatives that it would like to have addressed by the Legislature. Staff worked with city departments, community partners, elected officials and others to determine which issues would be included in the draft of the City's proposed State Program. A few of the priorities focus on workforce and economic development, education, military protection and transportation and infrastructure.

As Councilwoman for District 7, I also serve on the Public Safety Committee. In this month's meeting, Councilwoman Rebecca Viagran of District 3 requested the implementation of a Specialized SAPD Human Trafficking Task Force to combat human trafficking in San Antonio. In addition, we heard from Chief McManus on a Body Worn Camera Pilot Program and his plan to mount a public awareness campaign that encourages people to give to the charitable organization Haven For Hope. He dropped his ordinance that would have made it illegal to give money to panhandlers.

Public Hearing

SAWS Vista Ridge Water Supply Agreement

A Public Hearing will be held on Oct. 8, 2014 at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. This will offer community members the



opportunity to share their feedback with the City Council on the proposed Vista Ridge Water Supply Agreement that would provide 50,000 acre feet of non-Edwards Aquifer water to San Antonio by 2020.

In order to provide transparency to the process, SAWS held seven negotiation meetings that were open to the public. The contract document and related appendixes were also posted to its website. SAWS and Vista Ridge have reached agreement on the key terms of a contract. The SAWS Board voted to approve the contract during its Sept. 29, 2014 meeting. City Council will consider the contract in late October or early November.

Citizens desiring to address the City Council on the Vista Ridge Water Supply project should register at [Citizens To Be Heard](#) from 8 a.m to 6 p.m. on Oct. 8, 2014. Citizens should indicate that they desire to speak on the Vista Ridge Water Supply project. A registration desk will also be managed from 4 - 6 p.m. for in-person registration.

Upcoming Events

District 7 Pet Walk

Councilwoman Mari Aguirre-Rodriguez regrets to inform you that Sunday's District 7 Pet-walk for October 5th at Woodlawn Lake will be canceled. ACS has been working hard on this and we apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Animal Care Services Pet Adoption Event

Animal Care Services (ACS) is being San Antonio's biggest animal shelter for a "pawsitively" different kind of pet adoption event. The Alamo City "Paw"dopt-a-thon will feature three different adoption locations throughout San Antonio, each with hundreds of adoption-ready dogs and cats. Saturday, October 4th through Sunday, October 5th, would-be adopters can adopt a dog or puppy for \$35 and a cat or kitten for just \$15 at any of the participating shelters: Animal Care Services (4710 State Highway 151 off Old Highway 90), San Antonio Pets Alive! (on campus with ACS and 210 Tuleta), San Antonio Humane Society (4804 Fredericksburg) or the Animal Defense League (11300 Nacogdoches). Each shelter will have special "Paw"dopt-a-thon hours of 11:00 am - 7:00 pm Saturday through Sunday. All pets are vaccinated, sterilized and micro-chipped!



VIA Metropolitan Transit

Via Metropolitan Transit will hold one more public hearing to receive comments from citizens regarding proposed route changes scheduled to take effect January 5, 2015.

For details on the changes, please visit

<http://viainfo.net/Communication/Meetings.aspx> . The hearing will be held Monday, October 6, at 6:00 p.m. at Wedgwood Senior Apartments on 6701 Blanco Road.



National Night Out

Since 1984, communities across the country have come together to let criminals know that "neighborhoods are organized and fighting back against crime." Tuesday, October 7, is National Night Out (NNO) for San Antonio and many neighborhood associations are planning events for residents to meet one another, share in some good food and have fun activities for the kids. Congressman Lloyd Doggett, Mayor Ivy Taylor, Police Chief William McManus and other city officials will be having



a National Night Out Lighting Ceremony on this day at 10:00 am on the steps of City Hall.

Please join District 7 Councilwoman Aguirre-Rodriguez and staff for this special event as we will be attending the surrounding National Night Out events throughout District 7 Community.

And lastly, if you still have not seen Councilwoman Aguirre-Rodriguez's video sharing more news on the work accomplished for District 7 in the last 30 days, please visit her [Facebook](#) page for the latest information.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, you can contact us at district7@sanantonio.gov.