


City Bond Issue

My proposal affects the entire city of San Antonio, especially the poor neighborhoods. There are approximately 5,000 to 10,000 structures, houses and businesses, that should be condemned and demolished throughout San Antonio. It is the owners responsibility to demolish the structures. Presently, the city is neither condemning the structures nor are the owners demolishing them. This is causing urban blight to creep into the neighborhoods.

I propose that \$50 million of the bond issue be designated for the purpose of condemning and demolishing the structures. The city, by law is authorized to reclaim the cost of demolition from the owner. Once the owners repay the demolition cost, the city can reallocate (recycle) the funds to neighborhood associations in order for them to revitalize their neighborhoods. (If the owners do not repay the cost, the city has the right to foreclose and sell the properties).

For example: Within the Avenida Guadalupe Association neighborhood more than 200 structures have been identified as condemnable and that should be demolished. This action will create vacant land that can be used by the association to construct low income housing and to entice businesses to locate/relocate to the neighborhood. In turn, this creates businesses, jobs and low income housing, while assisting in the revitalization of the neighborhood.

There is another aspect to this proposal. Mankind is known to cause the extinction of species by destroying habitats. Few criminals are born criminals. Most are created by their environment, be it lack of education, poverty, joblessness and other factors. While we may not be able to eliminate all factors, we can eliminate the breeding grounds (urban blight) that help create criminals. Condemning and demolishing condemnable structures, many of which are used by criminals for illegal activities, will be one major step in the right direction. (If the entire \$50 million is not used for this purpose, the remaining funds should be allocated to the neighborhood associations for them to continue their revitalization efforts).



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