



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

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TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: Councilman Rey Saldaña, District 4 & Councilman Ron Nirenberg, District 8

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

SUBJECT: Waivers of Ethics Code Provisions

DATE: January 25, 2016

Issue Proposed for Consideration

We ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

Directing the City Attorney to draft language for City Council consideration that would remove the ability for the Council to unilaterally waive provisions of the City Ethics Code.

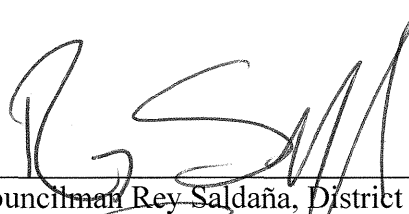
Background

The public demands the utmost confidence that the San Antonio City Ethics Code is applied fairly and uniformly to all City employees, officials and candidates, and it is the responsibility of the Council-appointed Ethics Review Board, composed of residents throughout the city, to ensure it. To protect that confidence, we desire an ordinance that clarifies and reaffirms the spirit of the Ethics Code, along with the independent authority of the Ethics Review Board.

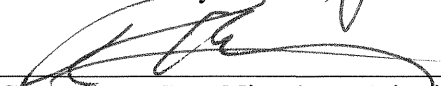
Such an ordinance should require that:

- any violation of an Ethics Code provision, regardless of intent, is addressed by the Ethics Review Board if a complaint is filed;
- any waiver of an Ethics Code provision desired by a city employee, official or candidate – and recommended by the City Attorney – is exclusively the jurisdiction of the Ethics Review Board;
- if a waiver of an Ethics Code provision is recommended by the City Attorney to perform essential city functions (i.e., real estate transactions or appointments), such a waiver must first be considered and found prudent by the Ethics Review Board.

Submitted for Council consideration
by:



Councilman Rey Saldaña, District 4




Councilman Ron Nirenberg, District 8

Supporting Councilmember's Signatures (3 only)


District No.

1.



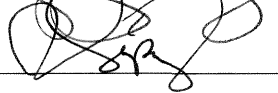
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