



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

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2015 JAN 6 AM 10:19

TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: City Councilman Cris Medina

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

SUBJECT: Negotiations and Lawsuit in regards to the Police and Fire Contracts

DATE: January 5, 2015

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:

I request that the City of San Antonio revoke the lawsuit filed on November 7, 2014 against the San Antonio Police Officers Association (SAPOA) and the San Antonio Professional Firefighters Association (SAPFFA).

Brief Background

On November 7, 2014 the City of San Antonio, under the direction and authority of City Manager Sheryl Sculley, filed a lawsuit against the SAPOA and SAPFFA on behalf of the City of San Antonio. This lawsuit has unnecessarily inflamed an already difficult and contentious collective bargaining process.

The Council must take steps to provide a civil environment in which an agreement that benefits the city can be accomplished with all of the involved parties. To date, the City of San Antonio has spent over a half million dollars in legal fees and are no closer to resolution than we were at the beginning of this process. Removing the lawsuit will:

- Ease tensions and return both sides to the negotiating table.
- Aid in creating a professional and mutually respectful negotiating environment.
- Allow for a reset of expectations based on Mayor Taylor's call for a third party independent actuarial analysis.
- Following the reset of expectations, both sides will negotiate from a position of mutually agreed upon financial figures.
- Exercise fiscal control of taxpayer dollars over a skyrocketing legal bill.
- Return the power of legal action against our first responders to the elected body where it belongs. The City Council, elected by the citizens of San Antonio, should be accountable for a decision of this magnitude.

This lawsuit should have been an option of last resort.

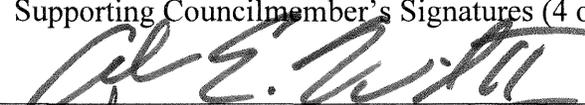
One of the biggest obstacles in these discussions has been the inability to agree on financial

figures by all parties. By bringing in a third party independent actuary and giving them an opportunity to provide solid financial figures and methodology that all parties can agree upon would provide a foundation for the negotiations. The City Council continues to exercise patience and respecting the fact there is disagreement from all sides of the table.

We must return the policy setting initiative of this negotiating process to the City Council. Removing the lawsuit is an acknowledgement the City of San Antonio wants to find agreement based within the current framework of our agreement. We should not sue police officers and firefighters to throw out an agreement that the City of San Antonio previously signed and executed in good faith.

Submitted for Council consideration  
by:

  
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Councilman Cris Medina, District 7

	Supporting Councilmember's Signatures (4 only)	District No.
1.		2
2.		3
3.		6
4.		5

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