

2/21/2022

Request for Coverage

Contacts: Debbie Reid — Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance 210-300-0681
Tony Garcia — Tier One Neighborhood Coalition 312-213-2842

Planning Commission Crams 40 Community Code Amendments Into Marathon Meeting

When: 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022

Where: Cliff Morton Development & Business Services Center, 1901 S. Alamo St., San Antonio, TX 78204.

What: Members of the San Antonio Planning Commission will consider 40 [amendments](#) to the City of San Antonio's Unified Development Code and decide whether to sponsor them. This decision will affect whether amendments get a fair review on their merits by all the relevant boards and commissions.

In what promises to be a long day, the Planning Commission will consider amendments submitted by a dozen organizations and citizens with the aim of improving City regulation of a host of concerns. Causes as wide-ranging as equitable housing, urban farming, flood prevention and stormwater management, and dark skies ordinances needed to protect San Antonio's military missions will be either sponsored and sent on to be vetted by the Planning Commission Technical Advisory Committee, among other boards, or die a quick death at the meeting.

"Having the Planning Commission serve as the gatekeeper for these amendments hinders any public or transparent process," said Tony Garcia, Tier One Neighborhood Coalition steering committee member. "These amendments deserve the same consideration as those amendments submitted by City staff, which don't need an initial Planning Commission review."

Groups as diverse as the Archdiocese of San Antonio, the Government Hill Community Association, Tier One Neighborhood Coalition, Joint Base San Antonio, Hill Country Alliance, the Food Policy Council of San Antonio, and the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance have all submitted amendments.

San Antonio only considers updates to its Unified Development Code every five years or more. The last time the community was allowed to have input on the code was in 2015. If the Planning Commission torpedoes these amendments, will all these organizations have to wait another five years?.

At the meeting, speakers will be granted a brief two minutes to present their cases for moving their submitted amendments toward adoption into City code.

"Frankly, I wonder whether this unusual process reflects Development Services and the Planning Commission's fealty to their vested interests." observed GEAA Executive Director, Annalisa Peace, "I wonder how the Planning Commission will fairly consider public comments and discuss the merits of 40 amendments during a single meeting."

"San Antonio City Council just voted to advance a bond package with a record \$170 million for flooding," said Debbie Reid, GEAA Technical Director. "It became obvious during the bond committee meetings that there are numerous flooding and drainage issues in neighborhoods across our city, and only a tiny fraction of them will be addressed by bond funding. It's time to review our stormwater and floodplain protection rules in a transparent public forum."