

**A Coalition of Organizations and Individuals in Support of
The Right to Cure Ordinance - A 60-day Grace Period for Renters**

May 6, 2020

Dear San Antonio City Councilmembers:

No matter what part of town we call home, what we look like, or what we do for a living, this global pandemic has disrupted our lives and rattled our security and well-being. As we try to serve our families, workplaces and community, it is difficult to ignore the truth: our city is headed toward an economic crisis.

The COVID-19 crisis has brought much of San Antonio's economy to a grinding halt, leaving many San Antonians without work. As a result, they are having trouble paying rent, utilities, buying essential groceries, and making ends meet. Their economic well-being and ability to prosper have been precarious for much longer than the pandemic, but this emergency has revealed a festering issue and an opportunity to set a corrective course for a healthy, resilient, and thriving San Antonio for all.

Securing people's homes during and immediately following this public health disaster is a foundational measure for a restorative set of policies. **We ask that the San Antonio City Council pass an ordinance that would halt the eviction process for 60 days after the "Stay Home Work Safe Order" is lifted, giving struggling residents protection from displacement and a chance to catch up on rent. The measure would prevent widespread homelessness and stave off a second wave of the COVID-19 virus.**

The Texas Supreme Court has halted eviction proceedings until mid-May. However, this action simply delays evictions in court. San Antonio has witnessed its share of landlords locking residents out of their homes or sending threatening letters to tenants demanding they vacate their homes. Further action is needed.

Once the public health emergency is over, the city will have a housing crisis unlike any it has ever seen. The breathtaking unemployment claims and requests for small business assistance make that clear. Without a plan to recover from this economic shock, an unprecedented number of San Antonians could end up displaced and unsheltered. Eviction protections coupled with financial assistance to stabilize renters is a more cost-effective and humane solution than mitigating a homelessness crisis in a few months. If the city fails to make a plan, the economic implications could spiral out of control.

We acknowledge and appreciate the council's recent approval of the COVID 19 Emergency Housing Assistance Program totaling \$15.8 million, with an additional \$9.2 million for families left out of the federal stimulus package. This is an important step that should be a part of a wider plan.

The measure of how well city officials perform under this crisis will be determined by our community's ability to bounce back stronger than before. The decisions you make as public officials today will not only help all of us weather the COVID-19 outbreak, but will also build toward policies that promote the collective care of our city and neighbors.

Sincerely,

Michelle Tremillo, Executive Director
Texas Organizing Project



Christina Rosales, Deputy Director
Texas Housers



Kara Sheehan, Texas Coordinator
Local Progress



Tom Cummins, President
San Antonio AFL-CIO



Graciela Sanchez, Executive Director
Esperanza Peace and Justice Center



Willie Gonzalez, Chapter President
UNITE-HERE, Local 23



Steve Huerta, Director
All of Us Or None Texas - A Project of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children



Additional Supporting Organizations

Dina Young Serrano	Community Workers Council (Neighborhood Association)
Anna Gordy	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Carol Balljiet	Friends Meeting of San Antonio
Amelia Valdez	Historic Westside Resident Association
Mike Hernandez	IBEW Local 60
Gloria Hernandez	Las Palmas Neighborhood Association
Richard Garcia	Memorial Heights Neighborhood Association
Raven Douglas	MOVE Texas
Rich Acosta	My City Is My Home / Mi Ciudad Es Mi Casa
Dr. Tami Hines-Williams	One Sought Out Ministry
Debra Hernandez	RAICES (Refugee and Immigrant Ctr - Education and Legal Svs)
Carolina Canizales	SA Stands - San Antonio Sin Miedo
Makayla Montoya Frazier	San Antonio DSA

RubyPerez	Somerset Rd Neighborhood Association
Rev. Sylvia Vásquez	St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Steven Gamez	St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church
Trevor Alexander	True Vine Church
Pastor Andries Coetzee	University Presbyterian Church
Velma Pena	Westside Neighborhood Associations Coalition
Victor Antu	Autonomous Brown Berets De San Anto
Steven Price	V.O.I.C.E.S. Foundation, The V.O.I.C.E.S. of Our Veterans
Julián Villarreal	Bexar County Green Party

Individual signatures by City Council District

David White	District 1
Jordan Graham	District 1
Mia Loseff	District 1
Axel Anderson	District 1
Amy Kastely	District 1
Chuck Robinson	District 1
Judith Norman	District 1
Alistair Welchman	District 1
Derek Tulowitzky	District 1
Kyle Kennedy	District 1
Janifer Meldrum	District 1
Gregory Garcia	District 1
Shannon St Cyr	District 1
Trent Breitung	District 1
Katherine Pruet	District 1
Bryan Ramirez	District 1
Elizabeth Davila	District 1
Lereta Gatlin-McDavid	District 2
Kennith McDavid	District 2
Danny Jones	District 2
Irving McDavid	District 2
Robert Gatlin	District 2
Vanessa Robinson	District 2

Melinda Beckett	District 2
Sonia Robinson	District 2
Lizbeth Parra	District 2
Rosa Torres	District 2
Nellie Deleon	District 2
Mary Lance	District 3
Betty Salas	District 3
Rachell Tucker	District 3
Jake Tucker	District 3
John Conde	District 3
Gilbert Garcia	District 3
Doozy Frey	District 3
Alejandra Lopez	District 3
Hoang Bui	District 3
Dorothy M DeLaRosa	District 3
Andrea Osorio	District 4
Marco Rivera	District 4
James Sims	District 4
Mary Grace Moreno	District 4
Daniel Moreno	District 4
Kayla Miranda	District 5
Leticia Sanchez	District 5
Victoria Garcia	District 5
Teri Castillo	District 5
David Yanez	District 5
Leticia Lorensy	District 5
Natalie Guerrero	District 5
Joe Bolivar	District 5
Andrea Ramirez	District 5
Abe Mcintyre	District 5
Roxanna Villa	District 5
Candace Blanchette	District 6
Laquita Garcia	District 6
Alan Rivas	District 6
Jeril Bills	District 6
Jesus B Garcia	District 6
Shannon Faulk	District 7
David King	District 7
Justine Wallace	District 7
Lanora Badillo-Acevedo	District 7
Mary De Los Reyes	District 7
Esperanza Garza-Danweber	District 7
William White	District 7

Sandra Martinez	District 7
Karen Muñoz	District 7
Michael Sarabia	District 7
Ximena Urrutia-Rojas	District 7
Kimberly Rendon	District 7
Alexandra De La Garza	District 7
Fabiola Torralba	District 7
Rev.C J Littlefield	District 8
Nancy Campbell	District 8
Michael Cantu	District 8
Christina Butler	District 8
Tracey Arredondo	District 8
Thelma Padilla	District 8
Ashley Garcia	District 8
Kayla Gray	District 8
Cheryl Ewing	District 8
Rosalinda Ramos Abuabara	District 8
Sabas F. Abuabara MD	District 8
Frances Sepulveda	District 9
Jodie Brown	District 9
Edward Mezey	District 9
Denise Hernandez	District 9
Andrea Ramos Fernandez	District 9
Michelle Tabit	District 9
Shareen Woody	District 9
Cecilia Guerrero	District 9
Paula Dolloff	District 10
April Duvall	District 10
MelissA Harnish	District 10
Christina Wallace	District 10
Brittany Sharp	District 10
Doshie Piper	District 10
Jazzmine Rosales	Bexar County
Dorothy S. Lopez	Bexar County
Tabitha Carter	Bexar County
Britany Rodriguez	Bexar County
Priscilla Gonzalez	Bexar County
Erika Ramirez	Bexar county
Naveen Martinez	Bexar county
James Armstrong	Bexar county
Jose Catusus	Bexar county
JosephLuedecke	Bexar county
Jason Anderson	Bexar county