



Via E-Mail

October 6, 2020

The Honorable Ron Nirenberg
Mayor
City of San Antonio
P.O. Box 839966
San Antonio, TX 78283

Re: North SA Chamber Support for November 2020 Election, City of San Antonio, Proposition B
– Ready to Work SA

Dear Mayor Nirenberg:

The North San Antonio Chamber (NSAC) represents more than a thousand businesses that support over 350,000 employees in the San Antonio area. Our top priority is to advocate on behalf of our member businesses and partners who contribute to the economic success of this the region.

It is proposed that the Ready to Work SA plan will provide workforce training and education for San Antonio residents displaced by the COVID-19 pandemic. It will provide the necessary skills training for up to 10,000 residents per year to be able to secure higher wages and currently available jobs. The proposed initiative is to be funded by a 1/8 cent sales tax, which previously funded the aquifer protection program, and has a term of 4 years ending in December 2025. If approved by voters in November, the initiative will equip up to 40,000 San Antonio residents with the skills they need to obtain jobs in high demand occupations.

The North SA Chamber, Board of Directors is in favor of supporting this initiative with the following recommendations:

1. The City of San Antonio form an advisory board for specific Ready To Work SA workforce program oversight. We further recommend that business and industry leaders make up a majority representation on that board/committee. The rationale for this is that companies will be the hiring entities for individuals going through the Ready To Work SA program. Therefore, they should be directly engaged in the oversight and evaluation of the program to ensure a seamless and swift transition from workforce training to available employment.

2. Identify a broader, more diverse group of training providers that can help meet the demand across all industries, for the purpose of providing more immediate training options and opportunities beyond the offerings of colleges and universities. As the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated, there are higher numbers unemployed people needing re-training and up-skilling in all types of industries to limit the number of training options and providers.
3. Make Ready To Work SA program funding options available to those businesses who offer on the job training and other industry or skill specific programs.

Representing the business community, we look forward to our continued collaboration with the City and its Ready To Work SA partners as it completes the development of a comprehensive Workforce & Education Plan to advance employees who will contribute to the success and stability of our businesses and in turn, their families and our overall economy.

Sincerely,



Cristina Aldrete
CEO & President
North San Antonio Chamber



David Pope
Chairman of the Board
North San Antonio Chamber

cc: Rebecca Viagran, Councilwoman, District 3
Adriana Rocha-Garcia, Councilwoman, District 4
Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager, City of San Antonio
Alex Lopez, Director, Economic Development Department, City of San Antonio
Rob Killen, Chair, Government Affairs Council, North San Antonio Chamber
Danny Zimmermann, Vice-Chair, Government Affairs Council, North San Antonio Chamber
Aaron Asel, Chair, Workforce Council, North San Antonio Chamber