



Memorandum

Date: April 10, 2024

To: Mayor Christi Fraga
Vice Mayor Oscar Puig-Corve
Councilman Rafael Pineyro
Councilwoman Maureen Porras

From: Councilwoman Digna Cabral

Subject: **Revision to the Adopt-a-Street Program**

Introduction

The purpose of this memorandum is to propose a revision to the current eligibility criteria outlined in the Adopt-a-Street Program, specifically to reinforce and clarify the exclusion of individuals with a felony and misdemeanor conviction. Additionally, it introduces a new procedural guideline for processing applications on a first-come, first-served basis, giving priority to those who apply earliest. These actions are designed to maintain the integrity and safety of the program while ensuring fairness and efficiency in the application process.

Background

The current agreement includes a clause under portion #12, restricts participation from individuals convicted of a felony or misdemeanor within the last 5 years or those under criminal investigation. It is crucial that the program's participants uphold the highest standards of integrity, ensuring a safe and positive community initiative.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact on this item.

Recommendation:

To enhance the safety, integrity, and efficiency of the Adopt a Street Program, the following revisions to the participant eligibility criteria and procedural enhancements are recommended:

1. **Revise Portion #12 to Broaden Exclusion Criteria:** Amend the clause to *exclude any individual who has been convicted of felonies and any crime involving moral turpitude*, removing the 5-year time frame previously considered. This change aims to simplify the eligibility criteria and ensure consistent standards for all participants.
2. **Extension to Businesses and Non-Profits:** Explicitly state that the exclusion criteria apply not only to individual applicants but also to any owners of businesses and members of the board for non-profit organizations applying to the program. This ensures that all entities involved in the program adhere to the same high standards of conduct.
3. **Implement Mandatory Background Checks:** Introduce a requirement for background checks for all applicants to the program. This measure will enable the city to effectively enforce the revised eligibility criteria.
4. **Clarify the Scope of Exclusions:** Provide clear guidelines regarding the types of convictions that result in ineligibility, ensuring transparency and fairness in the application process.
5. **First-come, First-Served Application Processing:** Adopt a first-come, first-served policy for processing applications, guaranteeing fairness, and prioritizing early applicants in the selection process. This method will streamline applications, promoting an efficient and equitable approach.
6. **Communicate Changes Clearly:** Ensure that all potential applicants are aware of the revised eligibility criteria and the reasons behind these changes. Clear communication will help maintain community trust and support for the program.

These recommendations aim to strengthen the Adopt-a-Street Program by ensuring that participants meet a standard of behavior that reflects the program's goals and values. By taking these steps, the city will reinforce its commitment to maintaining a safe, inclusive, and productive community environment.