



# Population Health Advisory Committee

June 3, 2020

Dear Mayor Ron Nirenberg, City Council Members and City Manager Erik Walsh,

The Population Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) is an all-volunteer community collaboration of public health professionals who strategize and provide guidance on issues related to public health and the COVID-19 pandemic.

We urge you to delay the vote on San Antonio's COVID-19 Recovery and Resiliency Plan until the city creates a public process that allows more stakeholders to provide input before it is finalized. Transparency and openness are likely to improve community-wide engagement and reinforce the City's commitment to fundamental democratic principles of citizen participation.

While we recognize the tireless work of city staff to prepare a plan that is built on ensuring public health and safety and we see the urgency in rebuilding our economy and our community, we firmly believe that efforts to incorporate a wider set of perspectives will result in a plan and budget that will best serve all San Antonians.

Community tele-town halls (phone and web) would allow citizens an opportunity to advise Council members on where and how to invest CARES Act funds to address economic and health inequities. An external review process could provide science-based, expert advice and recommendations regarding strategies, policies, resources and evaluation.

The Climate Action and Adaptation Plan are good examples of how to incorporate community input before a plan is voted on and finalized. We respectfully request a delay in the vote and consideration to include a public process for citizens to be able to read the proposed version and have the opportunity to comment and suggest changes. By leveraging the experiences, expertise, and insight of our citizens and stakeholders, we would be positioned to allocate resources and advocate policies that addressed our mutual concerns and priorities to rebuild a safer, healthier San Antonio for all our citizens.

We greatly appreciate your efforts and service to our city. We hope you will take this step for a transparent and collaborative process by delaying the June 4<sup>th</sup> vote on the Community Recovery and Resiliency Plan.

Adelita Cantu, PhD, RN  
Thomas Leo Cropper, DVM, MVPM, DACVPM  
Robert Ferrer, MD, MPH, FAAFP  
Vince Fonseca, MD, MPH, FACPM  
Erika Gonzalez, MD  
Courtney Groom Denton, MPH

Tim Hlavinka, MD  
Rob Huesca, PhD  
Amanda Merck, MPH  
Jimmy Perkins, PhD  
Cherise Rohr-Allegri, PhD, MPH  
Mia Vento, MPH